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THE OLDEST AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN MARYLAND.

Terms :---\$1.00 a Year, in Advance.

VOL. XVII.

JUNE, 1880.

No. 6.

THE

# MARYLAND FARMER:

A  
MONTHLY MAGAZINE:  
DEVOTED TO

## Agriculture, Horticulture and Rural Economy.

### CONTENTS OF JUNE NUMBER.

#### AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Our London Letters.....	173
Farm Work for June.....	174
Garden Work for June.....	175
Artichokes as Food.....	176
The Supply of Fertility..... Yeomans, 177	
Improvements in Harford County..... M. 177	
The Soiling System.....	178
Silica in Grain—Is it so?..... D. S. C. 179	
Soil for, and Tillage of, Sugar Beet..... 180	
History of Maryland Agricultural Society... 188	
Value of Plaster.....	181
Varieties of Corn.....	181
Salt as a Fertilizer.....	181
Fertilizing Value of Clover.....	182
Editorials..... 184, 195, 203, 204	
Central Agricultural & Mechanical Society 194	
Wool Market.....	191
Speech of Hon. D. W. Aiken.....	197
100 Bushels of Corn per Acre... Yeomans, 199	
Crops in Pr. George Co., and in the West.. 200	

#### HORTICULTURAL.

The Gregg Raspberry.....	183
Multiplication of Weeds.....	182
Pot. Fruit Growers.....	183
Spring and Summer Greens and Salads... 183	
Best Strawberries.....	183
Peanuts.....	184
How to Raise Watermelons.....	184
Power of a Growing Tree.....	184

#### THE DAIRY.

Dairy Details.....	H. E. Alvord, 188
LETTER BOX.	
Our French Letter.....	185
Is Ammonia Necessary for Manipulated Manures? .....	A. P. Sharp, 185
Visit to Agricultural Department... Meech, 186	
Strawberry Notes—Light..... D. S. C., 187	
Editorial Letter.....	W., 193

#### POULTRY HOUSE

The Houdans.....	190
Ducks .....	190
Setting Hens.....	190

#### LIVE STOCK.

Liver Rot in Sheep.....	198
Sheep Husbandry.....	198
What the English Say of Our Cattle.....	199

#### LADIES DEPARTMENT.

Chats with the Ladies.....	201
The "Three Graces" .....	200
DOMESTIC RECIPES .....	
CATALOGUES RECEIVED.....	196
PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.....	191, 197

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THE  
MARYLAND FARMER:  
DEVOTED TO  
Agriculture, Horticulture, and Rural Economy.

Vol. XVII.

BALTIMORE, JUNE, 1880.

No. 6.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

LONDON, ENGLAND, April 14, 1880.

The showery characteristics of April have not lacked exemplification during the past week, and the rain has at times been accompanied by hail as well as some atmospheric disturbances in the shape of thunder and lightning. A colder temperature has prevailed, with intervals of brilliant sunshine between the showers, and in nearly all parts of the kingdom, weather of a very beneficial character to vegetation has been experienced. Six weeks of thoroughly seasonable weather have made a wonderful improvement in the aspect of the country, and the rapidity with which those welcome changes which mark the advent of spring have occasioned has been the subject of general congratulation. Grass has grown vigorously, blossom is beginning to show upon the fruit trees, and after the dull, monotonous brown of leafless trees and barren land, the eye rests gratefully on the pleasant verdant hues that harbinger the spring. Although the thinness of the wheat plant has been made the subject of remark in several localities, rural advices continue, on the whole, favorable as to its present appearance, and the backwardness of growth is not altogether to be regretted, seeing that May frosts are not unknown in this capricious climate, and often injure crops which, by reason of unseasonable mildness, have become "winter-proud." This has fortunately not been the case with the present crop, which is better prepared to withstand the vicissitudes of temperature than would have been the case had its vitality been unduly forced during the winter months. The frequent showers of the past week have somewhat delayed the termination of spring sowing, but the acreage yet unsown is comparatively small, and the season is not yet sufficiently advanced to render this a matter for any anxiety. Supplies of English wheat have again been small, both in London and at the

provincial markets, and a decline of 1s per qr. has indicated a weaker tone in the trade, as millers have operated sparingly, their requirements being light, and weather influences have not been adverse to the prospects of the future crop. With regard to foreign wheat, last Monday's arrival list showed an importation into London of nearly 68,000 qrs., more than one half of which quantity was from American Atlantic ports, whence the latest telegraphic advices report a marked decline in prices and such increased shipments as virtually indicate the collapse of the "ring." That the speculative combination in America has failed in the attempt to dictate prices to Western Europe, is not a matter for any regret, but it may be remarked that the proximate cause of failure is not so much the abstention from buying on this side as the favorable weather, which has given promise of abundant crops in both countries. Against this, American finance has acknowledged itself powerless, and has wisely withdrawn from the struggle. In all probability, shippers' limits will now be gladly complied with in America, and heavy shipments thence for some time to come may be expected, as there is every promise of another enormous crop of winter wheat in the States, the disposal of which will necessarily be hampered should any considerable reserve of last season's growth remain unsold. Under these circumstances it need scarcely be said that a very marked decline has taken place in the value of wheat in London. Red winter, which a fortnight ago was worth 57s., has been moved with difficulty at 3s. per qr. below this price, and, although Russian sorts have not receded in quite such a decided manner, the tendency has in all cases been adverse to the sellers. At the same time the decline has stimulated the demand, and in some cases millers have bought with comparative freedom.

THE MARYLAND FARMER for the balance of 1880, for fifty cents. You will confer a favor on us by mentioning this offer to your friends,

## Farm Work for June.

We enter upon this first month of summer with cheerful hopes of a fruitful season and abundant harvests for which we should feel grateful to the great Giver of all good. So far, the seasons have been unusually propitious for most crops and our own land as well as foreign countries have so far been blessed with indications that the labors of the husbandman will be well rewarded. We regret to hear that tobacco planters have suffered from the fly, but if from any cause the quantity of tobacco be diminished, the remainder usually sells for such an increased price as compensates for the loss in amount of product. Besides, it is worth much to learn the lesson, that no man should rely entirely upon one specialty in farming. When a farmer diversifies his crops, he is sure not to have a total failure. In variety and proper succession of crops lies the true secret of success in terra-culture.

## TOBACCO.

This month the crop of tobacco should be planted. The ground should be highly manured and naturally rich, light and alluvial, and as well prepared as a garden bed intended for delicate annual flowers. Set the plants in moist weather, little deeper than they stood in the bed, and press with the finger the earth tight and close to the roots. Drop a teaspoonful of Gypsum—common plaster—on each plant, and early each morning hunt for and destroy the cut-worms if they are numerous. They should have been killed or driven off before the plants were set out, if our directions had been followed, that is, when the hills were about to be made, three or four bushels of salt per acre, sown broadcast over the ground.

- As soon as the plants take root and begin to grow, before the grass is half an inch high, weed the plants, scraping off the soil near the plant and pick with the fingers any weed or spear of grass growing close to the plants. Run a small plow, bar side to the plants, on each side of the row, and in a few days cross this barring process with the cultivator, if the tobacco is planted in equidistant hills, or if in drills, run the cultivator the same way it was plowed last, to level the ridge in the centre and throw the earth about the plants. Keep the ground clean of weeds and grass and well stirred. If worms attack it, as likely they will, destroy them by hand picking, or by the use of turkeys and other fowls, or if neither means can be employed to fully destroy the first "glut" of worms, use Paris Green or Royal Purple as for potatoes, but keep all fowls away. In the mean time destroy every horn-blower or butterfly that

lays the eggs which produce the worm. Do this by catching the horn-blowers morning and evening, and putting a few drops of Cobalt in the flower cups of the Jamestown weeds or of such flowers as you may see these horn-blowers dip their long proboscis into. Get your neighbors to join in this warfare against this tobacco enemy, and you will soon render your neighborhood free from these destroyers, especially if the warfare be vigilantly kept up for a few years in succession.

## ROOT CROPS.

If not already done, plant your potatoes for a winter crop, and it is not absolutely too late to sow the seeds of mangels, beets, carrots, and parsnips, on well prepared, highly enriched soil.—About the 20th or earlier, sow the ruta baga or hybrid turnip seed. Soak the seed before sowing and press the earth by roller or the feet or other means, after the seed is sown.

## STOCK OF ALL KINDS.

See that all the stock have plenty of good grass, either in pasture or in the stables or paddocks—soiling is economical in many ways, yet requires labor, attention and some time if properly carried on. The question of economy in soiling, over pasturing can only be settled by the circumstances which control the farmer. Each one must settle the propriety of the matter for himself, all we know, is that the soiling system is neglected too often by our farmers who own small farms, who once were to adopt it would never abandon it, as for such, there is in it a source of income to a great amount to be obtained by no other system of farming. It almost puts the owner of a small farm upon a level with him who is lord of a manor.

## CORN SOWN IN DRILLS OR BROADCAST.

Sow an acre or more in corn to be used green when the pastures give way in August and September. Sow acres of it to be put in Silos for winter feeding stock and thereby save hay, being a better provender, and allowing you to sell your hay, (which as a rule, is bad policy,) and siloed green fodder or grass is equal almost to green grass in summer, and has the advantage of feeding more stock from the product of one acre in corn or other material, than ten acres of grass cured into hay.

## LUCERN.

One of the most valuable and productive grasses known, may be sown up to the middle of this month. It requires deep, rich, well pulverized soil. The preparation is all important and requires considerable labor and expense, but once it covers the ground, it will yield an average of over one ton at each cutting, which may be made

four or five times a year for twenty years, by only an annual top dressing of good manure. A few acres of this wonderful species of clover or Alfalfa as it is called in California, is a treasure on any farm.

#### ORCHARDS.

Go over the orchards and destroy all the nests of the caterpillar and make continual war upon all the many insects that are now active in their depredations on the trees and their fruits. If you have not already done so, paint all the fruit trees with a coat of the steep, we have lately, and often heretofore recommended in our pages.

#### MILLET.

This is a good month to sow Millet, Hungarian Grass, or Cat Tail Millet, alias Pearl Millet, as suggested for last month. If likely to be scarce of hay the coming winter, do not fail to sow enough millet seed now, to give you a plenty of hay; one bushel will do for an acre. Take pains in sowing it on good fertile soil well prepared. It may be sown broadcast, and harrowed lightly, or bushed in and then rolled. We think the rolling is essential, especially if the land and weather be dry.

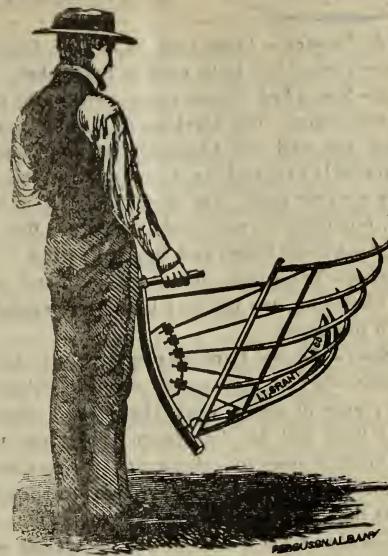
#### PUMPKINS.

Do not forget to plant pumpkins among the corn when you go to this the corn. They are very valuable for milch cows and other stock in fall and winter. They do not affect the yield of corn, and we think exhaust the soil but little, drawing most of their nutriment from the moisture in the atmosphere, and being broad leaved attract the ammonia floating in the air. Use plaster freely on the corn and the pumpkin, when the corn is one or two feet high.

#### HARVEST.

Prepare in time for harvest, by being sure of a sufficient number of hirelings to secure it in a few days after you begin. See that all the implements are in order and on hand before harvest can be expected. If you have no reaper, either buy one of the best at once or bargain for the hire of one, or if you mean to cut it by hand, have your cradles engaged, and get a lot of the best cradles, such as Grant's famous cradles, of which we give a cut at the top of the next column.

When harvest comes on, let nothing, but sickness prevent your constant presence in the field—the master's eye cheers the laborer and causes diligence and care, where there would otherwise be idleness and waste.



GRANT'S GRAIN CRADLE.

#### Garden Work for June.

The gardener has his powers of thought and endurance highly taxed this month prolific in vegetables, fruits, flowers, and grass and weeds. One general law must be observed: keep all weeds down; by frequent use of the rake and Dutch scuffle hoe. One half hour of either implement will accomplish more when the young grass and weeds are just peeping above ground, than a whole day's hard labor will after they get strong roots and four to six inches high. Besides, frequent working the top of the soil, not only keeps the weeds in check, but gives life and vigor to the plants, and is promotive of moisture as well as stimulus to the plant growth.

*Cauliflower and Brocoli*—For fall use, set out plants of these in good soil, and do not let them suffer from drought, and stir the soil often, drawing a little each time about the stems. At each hoeing, remove the upper crust of the soil close to the plants and draw in place more fresh earth than you removed.

*Beans*.—Plant more snap or string beans at intervals of three weeks until the last of July for succession—the black or white wax beans are decidedly the best. They are free from strings, tender and marrow-like, if properly cooked. The pole beans, if growing rampant, may be nipped off at the terminal buds and they will branch and become better bearing.

**Early Turnips.**—Those fond of turnips should now sow a small bed to be used in September.

**Peas.**—Sow a bed of peas every two weeks for successive crops. The black-eyed Marrow is an old, fine pea, and the Champion of England is comparatively new and the largest and best tasted marrow we ever used. Its only objection is its height, requiring tall pea brush, as it grows 6 or 7 feet high—a great bearer and long in bearing.

**Endives.**—Transplant, sow more seed, and tie up for blanching, any you may have large enough for such treatment.

**Cardoons**—Set out Cardoon plants, on rich soil.

**Peppers.**—Set out your pepper plants in rich soil—give plenty of water, work the ground often, giving a little hill to the plants. Set them 15 inches apart in rows 20 inches apart. Be sure and not plant the different kinds anywhere near each other, as they will intermix.

**Medicinal and Pot Herbs.**—Plant these out at the close of the month or next month. Distance apart, 2 feet by 15 inches. The sage, thyme, &c., will all grow and produce heavy crops by middle of September. Cut them off when they begin to bloom freely and dry in the shade. These are valuable in every family and always saleable in market at remunerative prices.

**Borecole.**—Set out plants the first good wet season or after a fine rain.

**Leeks.**—Set these out in rows one foot apart, and six inches in the row. After trimming the roots, set them in the ground up to the green leaves.

**Small Salading.**—Sow all kinds of small salading every week in rich beds, as much protected from the mid-day sun as possible, and water freely in dry weather. Most of them at this season will do well under shade if they have moisture enough.

**Egg Plants.**—This fine vegetable should be well cultivated and grown on rich soil.

**Tomatoes.**—Look to this grand vegetable, and mulch well the vines when they set their fruit, so as to keep the fruit from the ground and avoid the effect of the scorching sun in drying up all moisture. It is an excellent plan to train tomato plants on a trellis or let them run over brush.

**Small Fruits and Orchards.**—Mulch all small fruits after they have been well worked, and all grass and weeds destroyed unless the same has already been done. If well mulched, no further work will be necessary, and the mulch or most of it will, by next year, be rotted and can be turned under as manure with a dressing of salt, with lime, ashes or bones, and the land again mulched. If possible this course should be pursued in regard to peach, or other large orchards. Corn stalks, tobacco stalks, leaves, straw, newly cut grass, or

weeds free from seeds, will do for a mulch, 4 or 6 inches deep when first applied; corn stalks need not be put thicker than to cover the ground. This mulching keeps the soil moist, prevents the growth of weeds, and slowly but surely improves the land.

Pruning and trimming trees can be done, and perhaps for apple trees, this is the best time to do this work. Wash the bodies of the trees and larger limbs with a mixture of ashes 1 part, salt 1 part and soft soap 4 parts, with water enough to reduce the whole to the consistency of thick whitewash; apply with a brush. Sow a pint of salt around the quince trees, after working about the roots and destroying the insects. See what Mr. Beech has written in the MARYLAND FARMER heretofore on the culture of this valuable, but much neglected fruit.

### Artichokes as food.

As attention has been excited in regard to artichokes as food for stock, and especially hogs, the following table giving analyses of their value as flesh and fat formers, as against the other vegetables named, will be interesting. It will be seen that in carbonaceous matter—starch or its equivalent—they are inferior only to the potato. In keeping animals in health during winter, vegetables have a distinct value; and when fed in connection with corn assists the animal materially in capability to assimilate not only corn, but the cereal grains generally. The table is as follows:

FLESH FORMERS.	
Potatoes.....	14
Carrots.....	6
Parsnips.....	12
Mangolds.....	4
Sugar Beets.....	0
White Turnips.....	1
Artichokes.....	10

FAT FORMERS.	
Potatoes.....	180
Carrots.....	66
Parsnips.....	70
Mangolds.....	102
Sugar Beets.....	139
White Turnips.....	48
Artichokes.....	188

Here it will be seen that potatoes contain 203 parts of nutriment, and artichokes 198 parts in 1000, while the turnip, that has made English agriculture a living progress, contains only 41 parts in 1000. What has made English agriculture progressive through the cultivation of roots, is the fact that they may be fed on the land, without gathering. In our climate, the root crop must not only be fed, but they must be protected from frost. The artichoke is perfectly hardy, of the easiest cultivation, and swine may help themselves at will when the ground is not frozen.—H. L. M., in *Rural Messenger*.

*For the Maryland Farmer:*

**The Supply of Fertility.**

The fact has been demonstrated over and over again in practice, that the soil of good fertility under continual cropping, with no return of elements of fertility to replace what is removed by the crop, will in process of time become sterile. Nature, if left to herself, has ways of maintaining an equilibrium that mankind have not at command. But when man in his efforts to draw from the storehouse of mother earth pursues a course that is in any way in conflict with the general law of nature, while for the time being no appreciable change in results are seen, in the end it will surely tell, and then the disorder will be more marked and require a much longer time for correction. This principle is illustrated more forcibly in all of the older sections of our country. In New England, where originally the soil was productive, forests were cleared and large areas brought under cultivation, and cropping was continued without an adequate return to the soil; as a consequence, it deteriorated, and with its rough exterior became noted as an almost barren region, many of its citizens "going west" in search of a more smooth and fertile region. And so, to-day, in many sections, fields that have once been under cultivation are being returned to nature for her slow and sure restoration by means of forest growth with its annual deposit of vegetable matter in the shape of leaves and fallen twigs. The same rule applies to southern agriculture so far as cropping is concerned. Cotton has held sway in many sections, and crop has succeeded crop for a term of years, until the soil has been unable, from its scanty feeding, to respond favorably to the demand made upon it; so, too, the same may be said of the tobacco fields. It is folly to suppose that an inexhaustable supply of any plant elements exist in an available form. The mineral elements are contained in the select portions of the earth, but are not always available, and even if they were, a certain amount of vegetable matter is absolutely necessary.

Crops may do well, when fed upon the mineral elements, for some time, but in process of time are likely to fail; for this reason, while it is very desirable to have special commercial fertilizers, to aid in the rapid development of crops, it is very questionable whether it is best to rely too much, or wholly, upon such means. It is far better to employ all the resources of the farm in supplying fertility, and to so far rely upon it as to make sure of its being employed.

It is very evident that the soil should be acted upon mechanically, in order to produce the best

results, or else there would be no necessity of using the plow or hoe further than to keep down the weeds; but instead of that, the crop, as a rule, improves in proportion as the soil is kept stirred. Now, the mixing of animal manure and the coarse refuse material that accumulates upon a farm with the soil passes through decomposition which loosens up the soil, producing an effect that seems to be naturally adapted to the requirements of growing crops. This is why clover is considered so valuable a crop in a rotation; its numerous roots, which force themselves through the soil, serve not only to break it up, but also in themselves furnish plant food. It may be looked upon as a small matter to be scraping about, piling up leaves, turf, chips, old hay, refuse straw and the various kinds of manure, throwing upon it the slops of the house, but unless this is done there comes a waste to the farm that will be felt after a time. The necessity of saving all the night soil and chamber slops, and the manure from fowls, cannot be too strongly urged. We know their value from actual experience: both are very active in their effects, and must be used with caution. From these sources alone a good sized garden can be maintained in high fertility. It is an evidence of good economy and a true understanding of agricultural necessities to see a farmer careful in saving the farm fertilizers.

W. H. YEROMANS.

Columbia, Conn.

*For the Maryland Farmer.*

**Improvements in Harford County.**  
**Indian Spring Farm.**

This farm, now owned and occupied by Mr. Johns H. Janney, is situated on Deer Creek, fronting on the road leading from "Priest's Ford," to "Trappe Church," and contains about 550 acres of land, is now one of the finest estates in our county; twenty years ago it was rated as unimproved land.

Mr. Janney gives his personal attention to all farming operations, not employing an overseer or manager, but discharges those arduous duties in person. The general appearance of his crops, stock, and farming implements, gives proof of his care, good judgment, and executive ability.

**STOCK.**—Besides the requisite number of horses, mules, and oxen for the farm work, and driving, he has six fine colts, sired by the celebrated horse, Barbarian, all out of good driving mares, and now giving promise of making valuable driving horses.

**CATTLE.**—In the stalls there are 30 head of fine large steers, fed on grain and good hay, now in fine condition, their general appearance indicating good judgment in their management.

Also 30 head of steers rough fed, that is, *not* stabled, but having ample shedding around the yard in which they are kept, to protect them from the inclemencies of the weather. This lot consume the rough feed, such as corn-fodder and straw, making a large amount of manure for top-dressing grass land. They are now in condition to finish the fattening process on grass alone.

Beside the cattle for fattening, he keeps a few Short Horns, from which he expects to raise some of pure blood, as well as grades.

Also, some fine Alderneys for the dairy, they being considered by him the best breed for this particular purpose.

Mr. Janney deserves much credit for the fine flock of pure Southdowns he now has, numbering some 65 or 70, and an equal number of lambs, this being the largest and best flock of this class of sheep I know of in our county. Among them I noticed two fine bucks, one of which being a Centennial of the Lord Walsingham breed, the other from the celebrated stock of Cope. This flock, with their lambs, make a fine display on the hills.

**HOGS.**—A fine lot of Berkshires, which Mr. J., I believe, considers the best for fattening purposes and family use.

The buildings on the estate are numerous and conveniently situated: a large barn with stabling for cattle, large stable for farm horses, also one for driving horses, large and well ventilated sheep house, corn house, carriage house, harness room, and work shop. There is also a fine large dwelling for manager, which would be an ornament to many farms in our county, but now unoccupied, as Mr. J. requires no manager.

The dwelling house is large and convenient, beautifully situated on a slight eminence, just where the hills begin to recede from the valley. The surrounding grounds are handsomely laid off, and dotted here and there with flowers, shrubbery, evergreens and forest trees. The water is forced from a spring, just at the foot of the hill, (by a water wheel) to a cistern at the top of the house, and conveyed thence to all parts of the building, the overflow going to the barn and stables, for the use of the stock.

There is a fine dairy attached to the ice house, and each so conveniently arranged that anyone going from the dwelling to either, need not pass from under the roof.

Deer Creek winds gracefully around the place for the distance of two or two and a half miles, and within this curve there is enough level land for a good sized farm. At the north western end of the farm, on the hills, there is a very large and well known spring, called "Indian Spring," from

which the tract of land takes its name.

This spring forces out from among the rocks a large volume of water, and I am told there is never any diminution in its flow during the most protracted drought.

The water from this spring can be brought by pipes to the top of the house, and emptied into a cistern, by its natural flow.

**CROPS.**—Mr. J.'s wheat crop of 50 acres looks very finely. I believe he prefers the Fulz, as it seems to do better in this section than most other varieties. His usual crop of corn is from 50 to 70 acres; of grass, 275 acres. There is a young apple orchard, on the premises, now in bearing, as also, fruits of other varieties.

The surrounding country is settled by intelligent and energetic farmers, who give their personal attention to all matters pertaining to the successful culture of their land. The view from some of the hills is really very pretty, as you can see not only a great distance, but what you do see is worth looking at.

This is, perhaps, as healthy a section as you can find in our State; the physicians consider it alarmingly so.

My recollection of the farm 20 years ago is that it looked like one of the places to migrate from, but having been fenced, drained, ditched, grubbed and otherwise improved, it is now a productive and beautiful estate and one of the most attractive homes in our county.

M.

Near Churchville, April 26, 1880.

#### The Soiling System.

The plan of soiling cattle, hogs and other stock is one we are partial to as it saves a great amount of fencing—enables a farm to carry much more stock—is more economical and satisfactory than the old plan of pasturing in large fields. Wherever it can be practiced it should be by our farmers. Owners of small farms can not raise or fatten stock beyond a very limited number in any other way. Mr. William Crozier, of Northport, Long Island, N. Y., is one of the most successful of farmers, stock-breeders and dairymen in this country, and A. B. Allen, furnishes the *Country Gentleman* with a very interesting account of his visit to the farm of Mr. Crozier. After describing the stock, &c., and the system of farming pursued by Mr. Crozier, thus writes about

#### CROPS FOR SOILING, ROOTS, ETC.

Mr. Crozier is a great advocate for soiling, as by this system the stock not only thrives faster, but a much larger number can be supported to the acre than upon the best pasture. He has roomy

paddocks for the animals to exercise in, and cuts their food and brings it to them. This is consumed in field racks by some of the animals, while others are tied up a short while in the stables to eat their rations. About 100 acres are at present devoted to crops, and for soiling, he begins early in June with—

1. Orchard grass and clover. The latter is a new kind recently introduced here by him, called *Webb's Improved Cow Grass*. It grows about three feet high, but its superiority for soiling over other clover, consists in its extra large leaves and heads.

2. Oats and peas grown together. He mixes three bushels of the former with one of the latter, and sows to each acre.

3. Lucerne, fodder corn, and Italian rye grass.

The above are supplemented by another new thing introduced by Mr. Crozier, called the Thousand Headed Cabbage. It grows about four feet high, branches widely, and is cultivated in hills four feet apart to each stalk, like common cabbage.

The above last till frost comes, and then roots with straw and hay are resorted to, of which large quantities are grown.

The favorite root is mangel wurzel, because larger crops can be obtained per acre from this than from any other, and it is a better keeper. With proper care in storing it lasts well through the winter and spring into June. The method of cultivation is highly successful, but it would make my article entirely too long to give it in full. I will therefore speak only of one compost used. This is a mixture of 100 pounds of blood guano and 200 pounds of fine ground bone, with 300 pounds of refuse salt. This amount is sown broadcast on every acre, after the plants get up three or four inches high, and is then worked into the soil between the rows with a light horse cultivator. Mr. Crozier is a great advocate for the use of salt on all root crops, and says first-rate mangels can not be grown in his soil without it. The cost of refuse salt in the city of New York is usually about \$3 per ton. The planting is done from early in May into June. A single acre has produced 43 gross tons of mangels, which, allowing them to weigh 60 pounds to the bushel, would be 1,608 bushels. But in ordinary field cultivation one may be satisfied with 600 to 800 bushels per acre, and this pays well and makes them one of the cheapest kinds of feed for stock.

The example of Mr. Crozier in breeding improved stock of various kinds, and particularly in the cultivation of roots, has been highly beneficial. Before his settling here, few roots were grown for stock feeding, now they are sown by many of his neighbors, and their cultivation increases from

year to year. The farmers of Long Island are an intelligent class, and alive to avail themselves of the improvements of the present time, whether in the breeding of the various kinds of superior domestic animals, or the growing of superior crops. Till recently, grain and grass have been their chief products; if an abundance of roots can now be added, I think they will find their account in it. If these last are freely fed with hay, it is said they change the latter in the stomach of horned beasts, to the same state as if it had been rich grass eaten in the summer, and thus render it more easily digested and nutritious.

#### Silica in Grain—Is it so?

*Editor's Md. Farmer:*—In the December number of the FARMER, page 388, I read, that "wheat, oats and barley are called *silica* plants, because in their composition 50 or more per cent. of silica is found." If this had been stated of the *ash* of those plants, it would be correct; but ash is only a small part of the plant, from three to four per cent., and of this ash, it is true, that more than 50 per cent. is silica (dissolved flint or sand) but not of the whole plant; only about 3 or 4 per cent. of the whole plant, when burned, remains as ash.

According to analysis, by Prof. Way, when 100 pounds of *wheat* is burned it leaves about three pounds of *ash*; and when the same quantity of *straw* is burned it leaves over 12 pounds of *ash*; of the wheat ash, about 4 per cent. is silica, and of the straw ash 50 to 60 per cent. is silica.

Prof. Voelcker, gives the per cent. silica in the ash of grain at 1.17 per cent., and in the ash of straw at 60.38 per cent. Prof. Horsford gives the per cent. of silica in ash of wheat at about 3 per cent., and in straw at between 50 and 60 per cent. Dr. D. Lee gives the silica in ash of wheat at about 5 per cent., in straw at 69.3; and percentage of ash to weight of the whole crop, at about 3.5 per cent. The per centage of silica in the other crops named is rather less than in wheat, and in corn (maize) rather more, they all vary somewhat according to soil and ripeness when harvested. But all of these figures show the necessity of *returning the straw to the soil* in some shape.

Dr. Jackson, of Mass., reported, a few years ago, that the entire crop of an acre of good wheat when burned and analysed, gave from 93 to 150 lbs. of silica or soluble flint, and that the entire weight of an acre of good wheat, both grain and straw, was about 4,500 pounds.

All the analyses which I have been able to examine, give nearly all the silica of the crop to the straw, and a very trifle to the grain, which forms the outer coat of bran.

D. S. C.

**Soil for the Sugar Beet.**

For growing the sugar beet the subsoil should be deep, to permit the root to penetrate deeply. If it be not deep, the root will project above the ground, and all the projecting portion will be deficient in sugar.

There should be no standing water. A compact subsoil would be apt to produce rot. The remedy is drainage. If too dry, of course growth is stunted or impossible. New or so-called "virgin" soils are apt to contain injurious salts, which prevent either the formation of sugar or its crystallization. This was one of the troubles in Illinois. Still, reports from new soils in Russia show excellent results.\* Sod land is not desirable.

The soil must be open and deeply cultivated to permit the beet to grow in the best shape,—long, slender, and with only one tap-root. Small stones cause forking, which is undesirable. Alluvial, sandy soils are excellent, as being open in texture and containing the proper nourishment.

Strong clay soils are not suitable, as apt to be wet and cold, and become choked with fungous growths.

A sandy loam does well. The more humus or mould it contains, the better. Lime may have the effect of preventing the formation of glucose in the root.

Soils with, say, 25 per cent of clay, 70 of sand, and 5 of carbonate of lime, give good results, as being penetrable to air and water. 33 per cent. of clay, 45 of sand, and 22 of carbonate of lime, is also well liked.

Clay soils generally give a large yield of watery beets, while limy soils give smaller crops and better beets.—*Sugar Beet Journal.*

**Tillage for the Sugar Beet.**

There are two modes of tillage generally practiced in Europe: drilling and hillling; the first the more common, and the second the better of the two.

In drill culture the soil should be lightly plowed shortly after the wheat or rye has been taken off it, and while the soil is still damp and easily worked. The roots of small weeds are thus sun-dried and destroyed. Harrowing completes the destruction of weeds; deep plowing follows, and then re-harrowing.

Deep, deep plowing pays best. It is well to follow with a subsoil plow, so as to stir deeply without bringing up the subsoil. Sods should be turned over and buried very deep, by plowing twice in the same furrow.

\*Walkhoff.

After this, mellowing or fallowing is in order. Deep spring plowing and subsequent harrowing complete the work.

To lay out the rows straight and equidistant, nail strips a foot long, two inches high, and an inch thick, under a board, like sled-runners, and at the distance apart the rows are to be. This contrivance is to be fastened behind a one horse cultivator, and weighted so that the strips will mark the rows plainly. On the second trip the strip on one side goes in the last made line. Three or more strips will mark out several rows at once.

Seed should be covered  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches deep; no less, no more. In drilling in, at least 14 pounds of seed\* per acre is necessary. Hand planting takes more. Rows, eighteen inches apart, require plants eight inches apart to give the needed 40,000 plants to the acre.

If the rows are only fourteen inches apart, the plants must be a foot apart to give 40,000 plants per acre.

A man can cultivate two acres per day with a scuffle hoe.

After planting, and even before the seeds are up, hoeing is in order, and is highly beneficial.

Hand weeding is preferable to weeding by the hoe, when labor is not too dear. Thinning out can commence when the young plant is about the thickness of a slate-pencil; must be carefully done, as care in this pays well. In France, three hoeings after thinning are employed, and in Germany, four or five. Dry weather is best for hoeing. In sandy soils the hoe must not go too deep as causing evaporation and dryness. *The more hoeing the more sugar*, up to the time when the root has its full size. After this the weeds can do little or no harm.

Hilling is cheaper than drill culture, and gives larger yield and higher percentage of sugar.

The hills should be, say, thirty-one inches apart between centres, with about  $45^{\circ}$  slope. On light soils, make the hills shortly before planting.

In hill culture the roots have deeper soil to penetrate, and grow long and slender, the necks keeping underground. They can be planted as close as six inches apart, in the lines of rows. The wide space between rows enables easy harvesting. The leaves do not cover the soil, and keep light, heat, and air from it. Heavy rains pass off easily. The leaves do not wither early. A one horse cultivator can be used without fear of cutting the tiny side roots.—*The Sugar Beet.*

\*About 16,000 seeds to the pound.

## Value of Plaster.

Though plaster is largely used, and continually discussed in the journals, its many and various values are yet far from being generally understood. The results it has been known to produce in certain cases are almost fabulous.

Mr. George Geddes has stated that one of his fields has been kept in a condition of increasing fertility for fifty years by growing clover with no other fertilizers than gypsum. Even, therefore, if it possessed no other agricultural value than merely as a fertilizer for clover it would be of inestimable benefit to the country.

It has also a specific value for most broad-leaved plants, and especially for Indian corn when applied in the earlier stages of its growth. It may in all cases be added with advantage to barn-yard manure, the effective value of which it tends to develop. A remarkable case has been reported of its successful application to a crop of sorghum in which the yield was increased from two tons up to ten tons. In composting manures and fertilizers of nearly every kind it is used with excellent results, and the prominent place it holds in the French system of Prof. Ville clearly shows the great value he attaches to it. —*The Station Record.*

## Varieties of Corn.

Dr. E. L. Sturtevant, of Mass., has written a very interesting little treatise on Indian corn. He agrees with most other authorities on the subject in assigning this valuable grain an American origin, and argues that the supposed allusions to maize in the Bible and other ancient writings all have reference to some other grain. Dr. Sturtevant makes a beginning towards marking out a system of classification and arrangement whereby varieties may be described and compared. In Spain alone there are said to be one hundred and thirty varieties and the late Mr. Klippert, of Ohio, described seventy-one varieties, as having come under his observation. Dr. Sturtevant mentions twenty different colors, giving typical varieties of each, and shows that corn has been or is now cultivated in thirty-four different countries of the globe having received no less than sixty-four synonyms.

No variety is known less than eight rows to the ear, and they run from this up to thirty-six rows; instances being on record of ears having forty, forty-eight, and even seventy rows. Great variations in the qualities of corn are caused by habits, of growth, the influences of climate, and the effects of hybridizing. Dr. Sturtevant's classification of the varieties is in four groups: First, those

having grains of a rounded surface, as the flint and Canada corns; Second, those having grains of a flattened surface, as the Dent and sweet corns; Third, those having grains so formed as leave a triangular furrow between the rows, like the Tennessee prolific varieties; and Fourth, those having the grains partially or entirely enveloped in bracts as the so-called wild corn.

## Salt as a Fertilizer.

Daily we meet with evidences offered by practical men as to the value of salt in production of crops, and we are cheered by these statements of facts, because they support the theory we have long entertained and constantly urged upon our farmer friends that salt is important, yea, indispensable, in a perfect system of farming or horticulture. Mr. Allen, in the *Country Gentleman*, writing about Mr. Crozier's farm management, says:

“SALT FOR WHEAT.—Mr. Crozier finds it pays well. He applies 300 to 400 lbs. per acre. From 34 acres last year, he got 1,050 bushels of first quality wheat, which is a great yield for the light gravelly soil which he is now cultivating. This pays the rent of the farm, and the straw is wanted for bedding the stock when in stable. Wheat follows a clover and orchard grass crop, which is a much better preparation than summer fallowing, and saves the interest lost on the value of the land by the latter, and much extra labor and plowing.”

Our long experience enables us to say it is both, as a stimulus and a solvent, an almost indispensable article of plant food, besides its great value in destroying pestiferous insects, and giving tone to the vitality of plants. Farmers should use it plentifully on grain and grass crops, and gardeners and pomologists will find it of far greater value than its low price would indicate. Mr. Crozier, spoken of above, is one of the most practical and successful farmers in the country, and his experience satisfies him of its virtues, not only as a plant food, but as, in many ways, contributing to the increased fertility of the soil by combining with otherwise inert minerals in the soil, and exerting its powers as a solvent, renders active and useful those elements in the soil which would perhaps otherwise have never had any beneficial effect upon the growing vegetation.

• Mrs. Houston in “*Practical Weekly*” says about salt for corn:

“I will just say a very successful old farmer in this country used about a half bushel or three pecks to the acre; as much as a man can take up with his fingers and thumb, put on over the hill after the corn is planted and covered. Without questioning the theory of its action, it kills all insects and produces good corn. We have tried it with success. As this year the insects will

probably be worse than usual, from the very mild winter, this knowledge is worth trying. The farmer alluded to says he is never troubled with those pests. Coarse refuse or fish salt will answer well."

R. G. Kedzie, Prof. of Chemistry, Michigan Agricultural College, recently analyzed specimens of Bay City refuse salt, showing the following result: Chloride of sodium, nearly 88 per cent.; chloride of potassium, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ; sulphate of lime, 1.68; carbonate of lime, 4; carbonate of magnesia, 35; oxide of iron, 87; water, 6.38. He adds: For manural purposes the refuse salt is more valuable as it contains nearly two and a half per cent. of potash salt, which is one of the essential elements in the ash of all land plants. The sensible amount of lime and magnesia salts also make it more valuable as manure than pure salt would be. It contains enough chloride of sodium, and in addition compounds of potash, lime and magnesia, which are all valuable in plant growth.

Prof. F. E. Englehardt, State Chemist at Syracuse, in a recent address before the Syracuse Farmers' Club, says:

"Salt is not only to some extent a plant food, and able to dissolve some of the most important plant-foods from the soil, especially the phosphates of lime and magnesia, but it also assists materially in their distribution throughout the soil. If the fertility of a soil depends upon the quality of the mineral plant-food, which has been previously dissolved and afterwards absorbed, and this, we suppose, cannot be denied, it follows that a substance that can be mixed with the soil, becoming dissolved by the rain and moisture, and which is not only capable of dissolving the phosphates of lime and magnesia from the undecomposed particles of the soil, but which will also readily part with them again when in contact with the soil, is of the greatest importance to a soil rich in phosphates but chemically combined, and therefore in an unavailable condition. Such a substance is salt."

#### Fertilizing Value of Clover.

According to Dr. Lawes, the fertilizing effect of a clover sod is equal to 180 pounds of nitrate of soda. But it is easy to see that this estimate is too low. From experiments made in Germany by Dr. Weishe and Dr. Weilucy it appears that an average clover sod leaves in the soil, in round numbers, about nine hundred pounds of dry substance, seven thousand pounds of organic matter and nearly two thousand pounds of ash; while the phosphoric acid amounts to seventy-five pounds, the potash to eighty-two pounds and the nitrogen to nearly two hundred pounds.

Now, when this amount of plant nutrient in the form of clover is plowed into the earth, if we consider also the fact that it is already in the field,

without any cost for hauling or spreading, that its distribution is always perfectly uniform and even; and still further, that its quickening effect on the soil extends through several years, increasing the yield of three or four successive crops, how can we help seeing that the manurial value of clover is far greater than is usually supposed, and that farmers who neglect it are losing much more than they are aware of.

In the investigation made at the German station it seems that the nitrogen left by clover was equivalent to one hundred and sixteen bushels of wheat per acre, the phosphoric acid was sufficient for one hundred and fourteen bushels and the potash for seventy-three bushels. If any Club can show any further light from their experience on this important subject, it would interest thousands of farmers who would be glad to hear from them.

\* \* \* \* \*

The great question of experimentation, which is now developing widely in every direction, is doubtless destined to be the test of sound farming, and the great solvent of husbandry, before which its hardest problems will melt away, and the conflicting results so often reached by the wisest men will be gradually harmonized and finally disappear.

Although able investigators have given a new interest to this question in recent years, there is yet much remaining to be accomplished, and the present seems a favorable time for every earnest man to lose no opportunity of helping forward a movement so full of promise for the future.

If this great and growing idea of systematic experimentation could be inaugurated thoroughly and at once on a national scale by the Department at Washington, it would easily double in less than a single decade the farming products of the whole country, while it would more than double the profits.

It is sad to think how much the country is losing by the failure of the government to realize and apply this system, which, with its wonderful facility of expansion, could be made to cover every State and country and township in the nation, and to pour into the channels of trade at the end of every season an unsuspected increase of cereal grains and food staples — *The Station Record.*

MULTIPLICATION OF WEEDS — It has been found by careful and patient counting of the number of perfect seeds produced in a number of seed pods, and then counting the number of mature pods, that on a single plant of Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*) there will be one million seeds matured. This will furnish a seed for every square foot of ground on twenty-three acres. Suppose each of these plants of the second generation does as well as the single parent, we will have the enormous sum of 1,000,000,000,000, as the seeds of the second generation from a single plant, or a seed for every square foot of 23,000,000 acres.

## HORTICULTURAL.

## The Gregg (Blackcap) Raspberry.

Purdy's catalogue says of this berry: "We have grown every black raspberry that we have ever heard of, or that we could get hold of, and we are safe in saying that the Gregg is the largest by one-half, and the most productive in bulk by one-half; the finest, the meatiest, and the very best black raspberry grown. They are very late, however, coming even after the bulk of the mammoth cluster are gone. We picked at the rate of fifty bushels to the acre from the plants set a year ago last spring, while from no other kind of the same age (one year old) have we ever picked more than thirty bushels to the acre. From no other kind of blackcaps have we ever picked such an amount. We have no doubt but what a plantation grown in good soil, with good care, that is the new growth nipped back so as to grow stocky and branch out, would yield over one hundred and fifty bushels to the acre. Why, just think of bushes literally lined with clusters of berries averaging three-fourths to seven-eighths of an inch in diameter! Our pickers who have attended to the gathering of our crops of that sort, have averaged two quarts to other pickers of other kinds one, (the latter being equally as fast pickers too). We have measured many specimens that were one inch in diameter, while its average size is three-fourths to seven-eights inches. It is very late, producing heavily after the mammoth clusters are gone'.

[In our last number we gave a cut of this fine fruit, and Mr. Parry's description of it. In which our types make Mr. Parry say it measures in diameter one-eighth inches, when it should read seven-eights, as Mr. Purdy has it in the above.—EDS. MD. FAR.]

## Potomac Fruit Growers.

MAY MEETING, 1880.

This old society held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, the 4th instant, Dr. S. A. H. McKim, President in the chair, and Dr. E. P. Howland, Secretary. A goodly number of ladies and gentlemen were in attendance. Some handsome baskets of foreign fruits were on the tables, and some fruits from the market.

The draft of new constitution was laid over for further consideration. The proposition to incorporate the Potomac Fruit Growers Association was discussed, and referred to the executive committee for future action.

Different members, from various sections, reported on the prospects of the fruit crop, showing that generally it is very promising, with few exceptions, in which it has been nearly destroyed by the late snow and frost, particularly peaches.

Greatest injury to trees occurred in cases where there was late growth of wood last fall, causing immature branches and twigs when the freezing of winter struck them. These should be cut back early in the spring, and the young fruit should be thinned out, so as not to over burden the trees.

POTOMAC.

BEST STRAWBERRIES.—Of the eleven varieties of strawberries tested at the Missouri Agricultural College at Columbia, Boone county, where ten was taken as the stand of excellence, for family use, marked flavor and hardiness, Captain Jack led all the rest. In size Cumberland Triumph led. In point of productiveness the Chas. Downing Capt. Jack and Downer's Prolific, stood at the head of the list. As to vigor of growth, the Chas. Downing led, followed next by the others above named, and the Wilson's Albany and Seth Boyden. The highest average of the good qualities named was 9.3, which was conferred on the Captain Jack; the next highest 8.7, on the Triumph of Cumberland, and 8.1 each on Wilson's Albany and Seth Boyden.—*Rural World.*

PROFITS OF ROSE-CULTURE.—It is stated, as showing the profits from rose-culture, that in 1871 a florist in Massachusetts set out five rose bushes of the General Jacqueminot variety, in a new greenhouse 13 feet by 100. The first crop of flowers he sold for 4 cents each, with his tea-roses. The next year they sold for \$1 per dozen, and the next for \$2 per dozen. During the month of February of this year he cut 1,052 roses, which he sold to the florists in Boston for from 25 to 50 cents each, netting him \$440.50. Since that time he has cut and sold enough to make the amount over \$500 in the aggregate from the five plants. A second crop from the same plant is now coming in.

SPRING AND SUMMER GREENS AND SALADS.—Young beets with the tops. Sow beets thick, and as they grow, thin out and cook tops and the young beets together. Spinach, kale, water cress, turnip tops, poke sprouts, almost equal to asparagus, mustard, lambs-quarter. Buckwheat, from the time it is large enough until it is ready to blossom. Young clover is not bad, nor is pursley. For salads, corn-salad, lettuce, cress, water cress, pursley—fine and very wholesome—dandelions, leaves and blossoms of nasturtium, leeks. Most of these grow wild, and can be gathered early in Spring.

### How to Raise Watermelons.

I select a good piece of ground of a dry, loose nature; red, sandy soil is the best, as it will ripen them the best; and this is essential to a good price. Then I plow well and deep as soon as the ground is in good condition. When I get ready to plant I harrow and roll until the ground is well pulverized. Now I mark off with a plow lightly both ways so as to have my hills ten feet apart each way. The hills should be made of the finest dirt, about four or five inches above the surface of the ground. I plant seven or eight seeds in a hill, covering them about three-fourths of an inch. This should be done about the 10th of May, or not until the ground is warm enough to bring them up quickly. After the plants are up, the ground should be worked around the plants with the hands or a small hoe. When they form the third leaf thin them out to three in a hill, leaving the plants as far apart as possible in the hill. The ground should be all stirred by plowing with a double-shovel or cultivator three or four times; and the hills should be hoed as many times as they need it, loosening the ground in the hill and bringing up fresh earth to the plants. Keep the weeds all pulled, and do not plant with or near other vines, as the fruit would mix. Never work the ground when the vines are wet, whether by rain or dew. To keep bugs off sprinkle wheat bran on them when wet with dew. The best kind for early ones is Phinney's Early. The variety called Ice-Cream is the best for the main crop. Don't plant but one kind in a place, in order to keep pure seed.

Some will tell you to dig a hole in the ground, and put manure in it; but, if it is a dry season, it won't do. I have raised car-loads of them, and I never put manure in a hill. I have raised them to weigh fifty pounds each.—*Cor. Cincinnati Enquirer.*

### Peanuts.

Mr. Vick, of Rochester, in reply to a Kansas correspondent, says: Peanuts are considered to be about as easy to raise as corn. The plant has a long tap-root, like clover, that descends a long way into the ground. A sandy soil is best adapted to this plant, but it should be in good condition and dug deep. The planting should be made as soon as the frost is past in the Spring. When only a few are raised in the garden, it is customary to shell the seeds, but in field culture they are planted in the pod; they are put in the ground

about three feet apart, and four seeds in a place, and covered about two or three inches deep. When the plants are up, they can be thinned out to two in a hill. They require frequent hoeing to keep the ground clean and mellow. In field culture the rows are placed about three feet and a half apart, and the pods dropped two in a place, the hills two feet asunder. Here the cultivator is used instead of the hoe.

The blossoms are produced on branches near the ground, and, as soon as the pod forms, the flower stem turns downward to the earth, and the pods, as they grow, bury themselves in the soil; in this they may be assisted by drawing up some soil lightly about them with the hoe, just after the flowering season. The pods require the whole season to perfect themselves, and harvesting is consequently, postponed until the first frost destroys the vines. It is probable that in some parts of Kansas the peanut could be made a profitable crop.

POWER OF A GROWING TREE.—Walton Hall, England, had at one time its own corn-mill; and when that inconvenient necessity no longer existed the millstone was laid in an orchard and forgotten. The diameter of this circular stone measured five feet and a half, while its depth averaged seven inches throughout. Its central hole had a diameter of eleven inches. By mere accident some bird or squirrel had dropped the fruit of the filbert tree through this hole on the earth, and in 1812 the seedling was seen rising up through the unwonted channel. As its trunk gradually grew through this aperture and increased, its power to raise the ponderous mass of stone was speculated upon by many. Would the filbert tree die in the attempt? Would it burst the millstone? or would it lift it? In the end the little filbert tree lifted the millstone, and by 1868 wore it like a crinoline about its trunk.

OUR BALTIMORE FLORISTS.—We may well congratulate Baltimore upon having so large a number of distinguished florists, and whose intelligence and skill is being directed to the building up a very extensive trade in flower seeds and plants of high order of merit. Among the large number we have only had time lately to visit the houses of Messrs. Holiday, Black, and J. E. Feast, and were so pleased with their several shows of beautiful plants, we obtained some from each, and cheerfully recommend our friends in want of flowering plants to call on those gentlemen and view the many rare and fine specimens of their floriculture.

## OUR LETTER BOX.

## Our French Letter.

CHERBURG, FRANCE. May 5th, 1880.

To the Editors of *Maryland Farmer*:-Although a Norman farm is, generally speaking, cultivated according to long-established customs, and although these customs or rules are pretty generally followed, yet they are not hard and fast, and it is seldom that a landlord requires his tenant to strictly follow such rules. All the regular farm laborers employed on the Norman farms live on the premises; they are lodged and fed, and they hire themselves for one year. Taking a farm of middle size—that is, of about 200 acres—the regular laborers consist of 2 horse drivers, 2 yard laborers, 2 boys, 1 shepherd, and 2 servant girls, and the yearly wages paid to them are, to the horse-drivers, \$75 each; to the yard laborers, \$100 each; to the boys, \$15 to \$20 each; to the shepherd, \$175; and the servant girls, \$25 to \$37 50. The harvesters are naturally engaged for a certain time, and "a forfeit," that is to say, they fulfill the operations incidental to the gathering in of all the different crops, except roots, for a certain stated sum, and take the weather chances. The price generally is \$2.50 per acre. There are women and boys employed in planting beet-root and the like, and the cost is generally reckoned at \$1.50 per acre, or for 12 acres the proportionate area under such crops, \$17.50. These items constitute the whole of the labor expenses of the farm, and amount, therefore, to the 9 regular laborers, at 1 per head per week, or per year, \$67.50, or per acre, say, \$2.50; and six day's planting for fourteen women and children at the same ratio, \$12.50, or per acre, 1.25; total expenses for labor, etc., per acre, \$11.75; the rent varies between \$10 and \$15 per acre, say, then, \$12.50; and we have all the expenditure a Norman farmer must bear before he can put one penny to his own account, \$24 25.

With such an outlay he yet manages to support himself and his family well, but he and his wife and children must and always do, put their shoulders to the wheel. He lives well, but is far from being extravagant. His wife and his daughters must personally superintend and work in the farm-yard, in the garden, in the orchard, whilst he and his sons are out in the field from morning till evening. They are all up with the sun in the summer and in bed at 10 P. M. In winter by 5 A. M., and in bed at 9 P. M. For six months in the year the cattle are grazing in the meadows which, for the purpose, are divided into several equal parts whenever the cattle are put in succe-

sion. At night, however, the whole of them are gathered into an artificial enclosure, which is moved from one place to the next every day: thereby the meadows are regularly manured and no patches can exist; the dung is spread every morning by the cattle bow, and the grass grows uniformly everywhere. The same system is followed with the flock of sheep. They are out grazing from the beginning of March till the end of November, if weather permits, but are always kept in flock under the continual care of the shepherd and his dogs. The advantages of this system are obvious under many heads. Sheep do not run, nor can they be decoyed away from their master. The fields are systematically grazed upon, and if one of the animals fall ill, immediate attendance is at hand. A great advantage of the enclosure is, of course, regularity in manuring. The farmer knows what area a flock of 600 sheep will manure, and he acts accordingly in manuring, the other area coming under treatment for the year.

## Is Ammonia Necessary to be Added to Manipulated Fertilizers?

Editors *Maryland Farmer*:-Another growing season is here, the wheat and grass fields are in their glory, and many promising an abundant yield, and I am stronger in my faith than ever and repeat again what I have struggled for through yours and other columns within the past twelve years, that offensive decomposing organic matter to supply a little nitrogen in fertilizers is unnecessary, and a heavy tax on the farmers. The great success in Kent and other counties on the Eastern Shore and elsewhere, from the application of a plain superphosphate, dissolved bone, and principally South Carolina rock, without the addition of the usual offensive matter, confirms my favorite theory, which has been laughed at and ridiculed by many. I have watched the experiments of others as well as my own, and there can be no clearer demonstration of what I have repeated above than what can be seen at this hour growing on my neighbor's farm. Mr. C. Wilkinson, who is well known to yourself. For the first time he used last fall on his wheat an ammoniated phosphate, leaving a row occasionally without it to see the effect. Between the two, the phosphate has the decided advantage, plainly to be seen at a distance. On the same field, and not twenty feet from the ammonia phosphates, ashes were applied free of every vestige of organic matter, and it was certainly pleasing to the eye of the writer when Mr. W. pointed out the spots where it was applied

There the wheat was far ahead of any others, looking as green as it is possible for chlorophyle to make it, out in full head, whilst the other was far behind, and where neither was applied the wheat was only a few inches above ground, and looked as if it would hardly be worth cutting.

For curiosity, I measured the ash wheat, which was over three feet, with numerous branches, whilst within six feet of it it did not measure one foot, and the ammoniated not two. Surely it was not offensive organic matter that promoted this rapid growth.

Another neighbor, Mr. Rodney, assures me where he applied his cheap fertilizer (no ammonia,) his wheat was looking splendid, but where the other was applied the wheat was in bad condition, and seemed to be sickly with the rust. The latter I have ascertained to be one of the most expensive fertilizers sold, and I know has been extensively sold in our market, and is highly ammoniated. I shall make it a point to watch this result at harvest time as well as Mr. W's experiment.

A word for my own experiment, which is daily seen by some of your readers, as it is on the timothy field along the public road, and on a field that was as poor as the deserts of Arabia a few years ago.

Last Spring, as usual, after the winter manure was hauled out, I commenced my summer pile of manure by collecting the coarse winter manure left over, such as corn stalks, etc., and mixing with the fresh manure, I soon secured the desired object, heat, which in a very short time does the business for the stalks, etc., all rotting, or slowly consumed to a black mass, during which time the smell of the escaping ammonia is plainly identified. The remains of this pile was spread last September on a strip through the above mentioned field, and the sight at this time of the red clover in full blossom where it was applied is a pleasant one, and strange to say, no clover was there, nor was any sown on the field at the time. My aim has been to get rid of the ammonia in the manure for this reason, without doing so, fermentation and the rotting process does not go on. In conclusion, what we want is a good porous soil that will absorb nitrogen, air, moisture and heat, and with the proper mineral elements (inorganic) plants of all kind will grow, and grow luxuriously, and give abundance of food for man and beast, without the aid of the slaughter houses, with their offensive organic material, which adds some 15 or 20 dollars to the cost of the fertilizer.

I dare any advocate of the ammonia theory to take the subject up in your journal. My position

in clear words is that the atmosphere to all soils in good condition will supply in abundance all the necessary nitrogen as it does all the carbon (charcoal) for the plant. Give it fair play and success is sure.

[*Rock Hall.*]

A. P. SHARP.

### Visit to the Agricultural Department.

WASHINGTON, May 12th, 1880.

FRIEND WHITMAN:—I am here visiting the Agricultural Department, add a little to its Museum, and talk with Commissioner Le Duc in regard to some of my experiments in fruit culture, etc., etc.

I find Gen. Le Duc taking the most lively interest in all that pertains to the agricultural interests of our great country. He feels the importance of elevating the farm interest to the high position its importance demands, and is zealously working to help every farmer realize the best results from his labors. It is to me matter of rejoicing that his department is being elevated above the low grounds of a political machine, through which the members of Congress worked to please their party friends, by sending them public documents with seeds and plants. I know from my own observation that distributions were made to those who had no use for them. I wish that every member of Congress might be made to realize the great importance of such legislation and appropriations as will most benefit the calling that employs at least half the labor of the whole country.

It is very interesting to see the samples of syrup and sugar from beets, cornstalks, and the different varieties of sorghum in the rooms of the chemist of the department, and to learn by the experiments there conducted their relative value, and the time when it is most advantageous to work them up.

The experiments will be continued, and no doubt better results attained by larger experience, and a wider range of comparisons and inductions. I hope also the results of experiments by individuals, like mine, with syrups from sugar cornstalks, two years ago, will continue to contribute to the same grand ends. Let us, as intelligent farmers, all help on the good work, and as a means to the same end, impress our Congressmen with the importance of using their high position to aid us in developing the highest resources of our whole country.

Yours, truly,

W. W. MEECH,

To the Maryland Farmer.

Strawberry Notes—Light.

In March, 1853, while the writer was farming near Chicago, he went to St. Louis and obtained one dozen strawberry plants of "Burr's New Pine" variety; set them out in his garden; the last week in June he had a few ripe berries, and continued to get a few berries from time to time until the last week in October, when he picked the last three berries from that dozen plants, the frost having then nipped them that week. I have not seen any of that variety in this region. The Burr's New Pine is not a heavy bearer, but it will give berries from June to November; they are a pale red, of medium size, and very rich and sweet, and desirable for house use, being exceedingly delicious.

**LIGHT.**—Vegetables, such as beans, corn, melons, peas, tomatoes, and the like, make more vigorous growth during moonlight nights than in the dark of the moon; hence, the truth of the saying, "Plant in the dark of the moon for best success," because the plants will be up ready to go on growing by the time the moonlight nights appear. And it is known that berries ripen faster during moonlight nights. The following experiment was based on the same principle, that continuous light is favorable to vegetable maturity:

Dr. Siemens has been exhibiting specimens of fruit ripened by means of continuous light—that is, by exposure to the sun during the day and the electric arc at night. The contrast between the two pots of strawberries is very striking, the fruit being quite ripe in the case of the plant which has had continuous light and yet continued green in that which had the sunlight only."

The readers of the FARMER can regard this fact to their advantage, if they wish.

Washington, D. C.

D. S. C.

**DRY COWS.**—It is a common practice among some dairymen to give their cows, when dry, but scanty living. When a cow ceases to give milk, or is dried up, any feed is considered good enough for her. I think this is a great mistake, and the result is a diminished product of milk, both in quantity and quality, when she does come in. There is a large draught on the system to sustain the calf while the cow is carrying it; and to keep the cow in good condition, good feed is as important as when she is giving milk. It is my opinion that one dollar's worth of food when the cow is dry, is worth one and a half dollar, when she comes in. An animal in poor condition cannot digest as much food as an animal in good condition. If the cow is poor when she comes in, she will not digest enough food to support the system, and, at the same time, to make a large quantity of milk.—*Bulletin of Jersey Cattle Club.*

THE DAIRY.

Dairy Details.—III.

THE FOUR K'S CONTINUED.

Milk is the most sensitive substance upon the farm; nothing compares with it in absorbent power. Yet nothing is so carelessly treated. First, ordinary pails are not at all suited for milking. They expose a large surface of milk to injury from bad odors, dust and straws, flaring open as if to catch hairs and dirt as much as milk. It is a hopeful sign that better utensils are coming into service. Several good patterns have lately been brought out. These new pails afford protection to the milk, guarding against many causes of taint and accidents. Nothing can ever take the place of careful, cleanly milking; but these pails assist in securing this end.

Washing the udder is better than rubbing, because it leaves the dead skin and animal dust in a moist condition, less likely to come off while milking. These little, invisible particles act like so much yeast if in the milk, and are the source of much of the "animal odor" complained of. But when washed, the udder should be well wiped, and allowed to dry before beginning to milk. Don't begin milking while the teats are moist. The practice of wetting the teats with the first milk drawn is uncleanly, and generally injurious. The first milk is always watery, and often quite acid; it tends therefore to dry the teats unnaturally, and cause them to crack and become sore. Indeed, this first milk is so worthless, often so much changed in warm weather, that it is well to milk two or three teats-full on the ground; there is no loss of butter or cheese, and a positive gain in the keeping quality of the mess from which this part is rejected. To rub upon the teats the last few drops drawn is not so senseless, for this is rich in fat, and acts like an ointment; it is a handy preventive and remedy for chapped teats.

If there are several cows, begin milking at the left of the line as you approach it from behind, for the animals are much inclined to rest after being relieved of their milk, and moving from left to right enables them to lie down successively, without being afterwards interfered with. It is a good plan to begin by stroking the teats, and kneading the bag; half a minute thus spent is not wasted, for it is agreeable and quieting to the cow, and if the milking is then slowly begun she will "give down" all the more readily and rapidly. There is no question of the power of the cow to withhold her milk; the udder is provided with a set of muscles and tendons for this express pur-

pose, over which the animal has perfect control. Anything which tends to distract, annoy or excite her, causes this power of holding up to be exercised. There should be no interruption after the milking begins; hence it is best to begin each cow with an empty pail, and to have another which can be reached without leaving your place, in case of need. When well started, milk as fast as is consistent with proper care, and keep up this quick motion well to the end; else some of the rich "strippings" may be held back. The chief reasons for milking a cow perfectly dry are that the last milk obtained is always the richest, and is lost if not drawn, and that whatever milk is left in the udder beyond a certain time, not only loses its butter quality, but otherwise so changes as to injuriously affect the whole of the next milking; it is also liable to cause inflammation and to diminish the secretion of milk.

We all know how much cows dislike a change of milkers; but for this very reason I object to the advice so often given, that each cow be always milked by the same person. There will inevitably be an occasional interruption or change, and then trouble and loss often result, from holding back milk. Therefore, let every cow be accustomed from the first to be milked by at least two different persons. A cow may be thus broken to two new milkers about as easily as to one. Seven or eight cows in full flow are enough for one person to milk at a stretch, and they should be given three-quarters of an hour or more. With ten or more cows, there should be two or more milkers, and then it is a simple matter to shift to different sets of cows, daily. Then when one milker is absent, the fact is not noticed by the cows.

Without doubt, some cows need milking oftener than twice a day. A good many need it, at times, and any cow will give more milk and richer, if drawn three times a day, at least seven hours apart. But the extra draft upon the strength of the cow, the resulting necessity of better food, and the additional labor required, unite to make the matter a question of economy which must be determined by the circumstances of each case.—

HENRY E. ALVORD, in *Land and Home.*

DECREASE OF ENGLISH DAIRY PRODUCTS.—In an article on the agricultural products of England during the last four years, the *London Agricultural Gazette* has the following remarks in relation to dairy matters. It says: "The home production of cheese and butter has fallen off five per cent., the importations have increased ten per cent., prices have fallen twenty-five or thirty per cent., and the reduction of the income of dairy farmers

has been probably forty per cent., or more than £4,000,000 per annum, on account of their diminished returns on cheese and butter. And there has been a similar loss in milk, which should yield £26,000,000 a year, or twice as much as cheese and butter, and has yielded considerably less than the average both in 1878 and 1879. Hay and straw have been no exception to the rule, and the crops of both were never worse in quality than they were last year. The sales of these two articles are believed to have been £5,000,000 sterling below the average amount in the two years." No wonder the farmers of England feel like emigrating to America.

#### History of the Maryland Agricultural and Mechanical Association.

#### CHAPTER XX.

In this chapter we shall merely glance at the exhibits in the different classes, of the Cattle Show of 1856, mention the chief exhibitors, and give some of the more important reports.

The entire exhibit of cattle of the various breeds and of all ages, was large and highly creditable. The same may be said of the horses.

Mr Clement Hill, of Prince George's county, took first premium for shorn-horn bull over 3 years old, and both first and second premiums for cows in same class. Mr. W. D. Bowie, Jr., took first for best Hereford bull over 3 years old; no Hereford cows on exhibition.

In the Short horn and Hereford class, under 3 years old, Mr. Clement Hill took all the premiums for short horns in that class; and Mr. John Merryman, of Baltimore county, got first premium for a bull and also a heifer of Hereford breed, both between 1 and 2 years old.

For Devons.—Mr. Oden Bowie, J. H. McHenry, H. J. Stranburg, S. T. C. Brown, were the recipients of premiums.

Alderneys.—J. H. McHenry, John Glenn and Mr. Wilson, carried off all the premiums in this class.

Ayrshires.—In this class, Mr. Ramsay McHenry had a large number, and received many premiums; others who were successful were Messrs. Merryman, Shepherd of Virginia; C. Ridgely, D. M. Perine, J. C. Smith and G. W. Lurman. The exhibit of Ayrshires was remarkable for number and superiority.

Holsteins.—Not many were shown, and Mr. Sam Sutton, of Baltimore county, took all the premiums awarded to this breed.

There was a fine show of native, and grade, and fat cattle, as well as oxen for the yoke.

As a matter of interest at the present time to stock breeders, we give in full the excellent report of the Committee on Imported Cattle, showing who imported and what stock was imported at that day. The progeny of many of the animals mentioned in this report are now owned in our State:

"The Committee on Imported Cattle, beg leave to report, that the following animals were regularly entered and examined by them. Mr. J. C. Smith exhibited the imported Ayrshire bull Lafayette, and the imported Ayrshire cow Jenny Lind. Mr. R. McHenry exhibited the imported Ayrshire cow Nannie. Mr. Lurman exhibited Ayrshire cows Victoria, Dairy Maid and Daisy. Mr. Thomas Betts exhibited an imported Ayrshire bull. Mr. J. H. McHenry exhibited imported Devon bull Red Rose, and Devon cows Myrtle and Dahlia. He also exhibited Alderney Bull Commodore and Alderney cows Charity and Faith. Mr. John Glenn exhibited Alderney cows Victoria and Liberty. Mr. W. C. Wilson exhibited Alderney bull Pilot and Alderney cows Duchess and Countess. Mr. Aston exhibited Hereford bull and Hereford Cow.

After a careful and thorough investigation, your Committee award the following premiums.

For best Ayrshire bull, \$30, J. C. Smith, for Lafayette; 2d best Ayrshire bull, \$15, Thomas Betts. For best Ayrshire cow, \$30, R. McHenry, for Nannie; 2d best do \$15, G. W. Lurman, for Daisy; 3d best do \$10, G. W. Lurman, for Daisy Maid. For best Alderney bull, \$30, J. H. McHenry, for Commodore; 2d best do. \$15, W. C. Wilson, for Pilot. For best Alderney cow \$30, J. Glenn, for Victoria; 2d best do. \$15, J. H. McHenry, for Faith; 3d best do. \$10, W. C. Wilson, for Duchess. For best Devon bull, \$30, J. H. McHenry for Red Rose; best Devon cow, \$30, to same for Myrtle; 2d best do \$15 to same, for Dahlia. For best Hereford bull \$30, to Thos. Aston; best Hereford cow, to same, \$30.

Your Committee cannot conclude this report without referring more particularly to some of the animals which came under their observation. As will be seen by the foregoing statement, there was but one Hereford bull exhibited, but that animal was of such superior merit that your Committee desire to call particular notice to him, and to express the hope that, at the future exhibitions of the Society, this breed, so valuable for working oxen and beef cattle, will be more largely represented. The Ayrshire cows exhibited were all fine animals of that breed, but the greatest difficulty your Committee encountered, was in awarding the premiums for Alderney cows. Among so many fine and beautiful animals it was difficult to decide, but in every instance their decisions were unanimous. As the Alderney breed is valued particularly for the quantity and richness of their butter, your committee would recommend that at future exhibitions those desiring to exhibit should be requested to furnish a properly authenticated statement of the quantity of butter made by each cow during one month of the year, and the kind and quality

of feed used in producing the same. All of which is respectfully presented.

"CHAS. B. CALVERT,  
"GEO. W. HUGHES."

There was a very large number of excellent sheep of various breeds, and grades, and ages. Those who received premiums were Messrs. C. B. Calvert, Oden Bowie, J. Merriman, M. T. Goldsborough, T. Godman and J. N. Goldsborough. There was no Saxony or Merino sheep. Some fine fat wethers were awarded premiums. They belonged to S. Thomas & Sons, Genl. Cadwallader, Mr. T. Godman and Colonel Edward Lloyd. The slaughtered mutton were splendid.

Col. J. W. Ware, of Virginia, carried off all the first and second premiums for Imported Cotswolds, and a discretionary premium of \$30 was awarded to G. W. Lurman, Esq., for "Broad Tail or Shanghaes," as encouragement to importers of fine stock, although the committee "were not prepossessed in favor" of the Broad Tail's

There were many fine horses of various breeds and for different purposes exhibited, and added much to the interest of the show.

The show of poultry was greatly attractive; among which was to be found a great variety of domestic fowls and rare birds. Mr. Bowers, of Baltimore City, received high commendation by the committee for his large and superb collection.

The Horticultural Hall presented a pleasing appearance, indicating much progress in the art of growing fruits, vegetables and flowers.

The Household Department fully sustained the high reputation of the ladies of Maryland for their skill in all things appertaining to household duties and management. Visitors were fascinated by the numberless exhibitions of woman's handi-work.

In the Dairy and Honey corner were evidences of great improvement in these indispensable adjuncts to good living, and farm economy in the State, since the organization of the Society.

The display of Agricultural Implements was all that could be expected, or we may say, desired at that day. Among some miscellaneous articles we may name, for the purpose of showing what were then new and thought to be almost miracles of invention, the following: an improved Butter Cooler, a new Bee Hive. Brick Tiles, Rustic Furniture, the "Ball Washing" Machine, Dorsey's Self-Raker, Weston's Hay Press, McGregor's Agl. Boiler, Portable Wind Engine, Wilt and Albaugh's Corn Planter, Page's Perta-

ble Steam Engine and Sawmill, Montgomery Fanning Mill, Drury's Sweep Power, and other articles which have long since lost their places and been superseded by new improved implements. Yet it is worthy of remark that many of the above mentioned still cling to their early names, although they have become so improved that their original inventors would not now recognize them. This was the infancy of invention, and many who then started ideas for their successors to improve upon are now lost to sight, but should be "to memory dear," for they were the ingenious pioneers in a world almost unknown, which has since been opened up to the thoughtful minds of inventive genius of our generation, and the seeds dropped by those who have preceded us have generated and borne fruit, and agricultural implements and machinery manufacture has become a science governed by known laws, and working systematically to advance agricultural progress, until it has reached the point where it is conceded that agriculture is dependent entirely upon mechanics for all its great achievements. They are now inseparable, without agriculture the agricultural implement and machine manufacture could not exist, and without the invention of mechanical minds, agriculture would be as hidden an art or science as in the dark ages when the forked stick was pulled by the tails of horses or oxen to stir the soil, in place of what our steam plows and sulky cultivators now accomplish.

## The Poultry House.

### The Houdans.

"The many valuable points in this breed of fowls only need to be better understood to be appreciated.

"The Houdans combine, in a high degree, those qualities which would make them popular with the amateur breeder, and those who wish to keep a few fowls to furnish their own tables with excellent eggs and poultry.

"As layers they are prolific, nearly, if not quite, rivaling the Leghorns, producing eggs of large size and superior flavor. As a table fowl the Houdans are very good and their firmness of bone yields a small proportion of waste in the carcass. There is little inclination to set, which is another point in their favor with many, to whom this propensity in the Asiatic breeds seems to be a continual bugbear. Those who desire to keep a small flock of fowls, principally for eggs, will find in the Houdans a breed that will, if necessary, bear confinement well, and thrive under all ordinary circumstances.

"A Houdan cock should weigh from eight to nine pounds, and should possess the following characteristics: Upright carriage, prominent and

well rounded breast, comb well developed, antler-shaped, upright and branching into a few finely formed points; crest of moderate dimensions, sweeping backward, but not so large, or falling to the sides so as to cover the face, as in the Polish cock. We can but think that some breeders have made a mistake in trying to breed this type of fowls with very large crests, to the exclusion of other points of far greater value. The wattles should be large and fine, and the beard close and full. To our eye, this style of bird is of far greater beauty and finer proportions, than one of similar size with a very large crest and beard; in such specimens we have observed that the comb was nearly always misshapen, and the wattles small. The color should be a rich black and white, evenly spangled, without red or golden feathers.

"The hen should weigh from six to seven and a half pounds, color same as cock, comb very small and coral-like, round, globular crest, upright and compact, muff full and close, and a plump well proportioned form.

"Houdans are not to be classed as strictly ornamental fowls, although they have many fancy appendages, which are unusually prominent. They are eminently useful fowls. A variety which combines hardiness, early maturity, heavy, compact bodies, short legs, absence of offal and good laying qualities, deserves a prominent place in the poultry yard."—*Junius, in the American Poultry Yard.*

### DUCKS.

Among the Duck class of poultry, we have in the United States four kinds, besides the Common, that are esteemed first class birds. These are the Rouen, the Pekin, the Aylesbury, and the Cayuga Black varieties. The Rouen was originally a French variety—well known and long domesticated in this country. For all requisites and desirable qualities, perhaps these Ducks, when well bred, are among the finest in the world. Others prefer the Aylesbury, on account of its purity of white plumage and goodly proportions at maturity. But for a white Duck, the Pekins have already taken a front rank, wherever this magnificent new breed is known, on either side of the Atlantic. The plumage of the Rouen drake is very showy and beautiful. His brown-red breast, his gorgeous metallic green head and neck, his evenly feathered back and flanks and blue tipped wings render him a marked object of interest at the head of his flock of modest brown and black plumed mates, on the lake's surface or in the well kept fowl run. For weight and size, at the same age, the Pekins are the largest of these four named varieties.

There are the white and colored Crested Ducks also, but these are not commonly bred among us, and never very perfectly. —*Balto. Stock Bulletin.*

**SETTING HENS.**—Set your hens at night, and see that they have set steadily day and night for a few days before you put the eggs under them. Some hens, young ones particularly, will keep the nest all day and quit it at night. It is a good rule to put artificial eggs under them for a while until you are certain they are determined to brood steadily.

### The Wool Market.

The circulation of our Journal is considerable in the Middle States, yet is much greater in what was formerly called the Southern or slave States, including Maryland, and among a people who possess localities adapted peculiarly to sheep raising, yet we regret to say, have as yet but small interest, compared with other sections of the Union, in the wool market. But they have, in the aggregate, no small amount of wool to sell annually, and hence, the true state of the wool market is worthy of their consideration; therefore we give our views in opposition to what we find in some of our exchanges. The Utica Weekly Herald of 18th ult., has a carefully prepared editorial under the above heading. After speaking of the rise in prices of wool last year, and quoting the New York Rural's prediction, that "for the coming season high prices are assured," it gives several facts to show that wool has fallen in price rapidly of late and is still going down, with no hope or chance of its getting better. It then urges wool growers to sell as soon as possible, saying, "the sooner it is sold the more they will get for it." One reason assigned is that some one conversant for the past thirty years with the wool market, has observed that the price of wool is always very low during each Presidential election year. The editor assigns no reason for this fact, if it is a fact. We are left to conclude it is because so many go about during that period "wool gathering." We do not put any faith in such observances any more than we believe in the moon theories.

Wool, like everything marketable, is regulated in price by supply and demand. Our wool product is out of all proportion deficient to the demand for it—it is not in ratio to our population—we import largely instead of exporting it. Every day more wool enters into the composition of wearing materials, and woollen manufacturing is daily on the increase.

It is known that the markets are not overstocked nor even full with woollen goods.

Sheep husbandry has not increased in the United States as other industries have, owing to many valid reasons we have not now the time to dwell upon and set forth.

There is a great foreign demand for our live sheep and dressed mutton, which tends to decrease our flocks. In Europe, owing to the wars of late years, and to bad seasons, disastrous weather, and certain new diseases of the sheep, the numbers have decreased rapidly, and in the East, we have correct statements that the Russian and the English troops, during their troublous encounters with

the natives of those countries in Asia, destroyed millions of sheep, and the natives themselves killed great numbers, so that the number of sheep in the world to-day is by many millions less than it was four years ago.

We give in support of this view of the question the following from the "London Economist": "Hundreds of thousands of sheep, if not millions, have died of plague in England, and the Russian-Turkish and English-Afghanistan war, and wars in Turkey, in Syria, in Persia and the Indian country, have caused tens of millions of sheep to be killed. In fact, wool growing in Turkey, in Russia, in Persia and all India, has been almost given up on account of the war and the low prices current for the past five years."

In face of all these facts we can see no reason for a decline in wool, unless it be that a well arranged "corner" has been perfected by either the wool merchants or wool manufacturers, or it may be a collusion between the two. At any rate we say to the wool growers among our people, hold on, unless you get a living price. The holding over for a fair price will not affect each individual much, as would be the case in tobacco, wheat, or cotton. In the aggregate it will make so great a difference to the manufacturer that he will soon have to close his business or advance his offers for the raw material. He cannot get it abroad, for it cannot be had. Wool is a necessity, and clothing must be made; hence a fair price can be forced from the buyers by resolute action on the part of the wool grower. We deprecate this "bullying and bearing" in the markets of Agricultural products, but if it is forced on the producers, we say to them, hold on, and you will soon see which will first cry out, "hold, enough!"

THE Maryland Directory for 1880. By J. Frank Lewis & Co., Baltimore, Maryland. Price \$1.50. This is one of the best arranged and completest compilations of the kind we have ever seen, and abounds in historic facts and interesting descriptions of localities in the State. It contains a full list of the postoffices in the State, and the names of all farmers, merchants, professional men, mechanics, and others in the vicinity of each post-office. The names of the villages and towns, with the principle buildings, and the chief industries pursued in each place. This valuable book should be in the hands of every business man in the whole State, and will be of much use to merchants, owners of fine stock and mechanical inventions in other States, acquainting them with the addresses of persons likely to become purchasers. We wish the enterprise great success.



## An Editorial Letter to the Maryland Farmer.

THE NEATEST AND BEST CULTIVATED  
F FARMS IN AMERICA.

When on a recent visit to Pennsylvania, I met with a Baltimore friend in the town of York, who remarked that if I would make a circuit of about 100 miles from the Maryland line through the county of York, and then cross the Susquehanna at Columbia, and go thence around and through Lancaster county and city, Mount Joy and Middletown to Harrisburg, and then back through the town of York again, to the Maryland line, I would see a glorious agricultural country, unsurpassed by any other region of similar size in the world. Having heard before of this beautiful country, I determined to gratify my long desire to see it. I made the extended circuit as suggested, and must say I was delighted with my trip.

I have travelled over much of the choicest sections of my own country and in England and France, but have nowhere seen such system, order and perfect culture of ground, and unexceptionally excellent agriculture as I had the pleasure of seeing along the entire route.

The wheat and clover fields were green and presented favorable appearances for heavy products; the orchards were full of bloom, showing abundance of peaches, apples, cherries, pears and other fruit, on every farm. The corn fields were prepared, or being so, as if intended for vegetable or flower gardens. I have never anywhere or in any country, seen better preparation for crops.

I was particularly struck with the neatness and good order of the farms. Along the whole route I saw not a rail broken, or a leaning post, nor a brier or bush, or unseemly growing vegetation of any sort along the straight, well constructed post and rail fences. Every pannel was in line and seemed strong. The fences and the fields seemed to have been surveyed and laid off by experienced engineers—so straight and so correct were their lines.

The dwellings seemed to be solidly built and plain, yet surrounded by improved grounds. The great attraction was the many large and elegant barns and farm yards, of huge proportions and built with taste, all painted and glass-windowed, presenting the appearance of large dwellings for man, rather than for farm beasts. Cleanliness in every form seemed the order of the day, added to whitewash and paint for ornamentation of buildings and fences. Order was observed everywhere. What stock I could see were in excellent condition and of improved breeds. The working beasts,

oxen and horses, were all large, fat, and in prime condition of health and training to perform the labors of the farm.

I called a halt for a day when I reached Harrisburg, that I might see something of the Capital of the great State of Pennsylvania. My first effort was to visit the State House. When in the large Senate Chamber I could not help recalling the farce, lately enacted in that forum, of the great Bribery cases. But this thought was soon dissipated by the examination of the immense Representatives' Hall. I then went into the fine Library—a splendid room, 102 feet by 54 feet, and 24 $\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, with 312 feet of gallery, affording 2,808 square feet of shelving for books. I now gratefully acknowledge the courtesies I received from the accomplished Librarian as soon as he discovered I was a stranger and from Maryland. In this room I could have lingered a long time, inspecting its many rare treasures and objects of antiquity connected with the early history of this noble State, but time required me to move on, and I worked my way to the dome of the Capitol, when I was more than charmed by the vision. The city lay at my feet, and the eye took in with a bird's eye view, the grand panorama that lay within the extended horizon from this elevation. The whole country surrounding was aglow with the beauty of spring blossoms, green fields, and every evidence of the highest progress of prosperity and success, crowned with the serenity of the peace and happiness of a contented and independent people.

The grounds or Park around the Capitol are elegant, comprising 13 acres, enclosed with an iron fence, being an eminence, on the apex of which stands the large and stately building, the ground gently sloping on all sides and adorned with old; majestic shade trees and rare ornamental trees and shrubbery, with flower beds interspersed on the rich, thick, grassy turf, where daily congregate the men, women and children of this flourishing city, to enjoy the shade and the pretty scene, while the fountains impart a freshness and exhilaration to the tired traveller, or the care-worn and enfeebled denizen of the town. This site, it is said, was assigned by the patriot and pioneer, John Harris, long before the Capital of the State was located, or before Pennsylvania was a State of the Union.

Harris Park is a very interesting spot. Here is the grave of John Harris, near the river, and here was the place where he built his hut, over 150 years ago, and became the first settler. His grave is only marked by an iron railing and the huge stump of a mulberry tree, ten feet high and over

eleven feet in circumference, to which tree tradition says he was bound and about to be killed by torture by the Indians, when he was saved by a friendly tribe from across the river. Geo. W. Harris, Esq., a few years ago planted a young mulberry which will perpetuate the historic tree in the sacred spot.

Harrisburg was founded and named by John Harris, the son of the pioneer. What a change in the century and a half! Then the old pioneer had his hut and perhaps a blockhouse and stockade, with now and then a trapper or trader on foot or with a single horse, crossed the river to reach the hut and trade. That was the scene and the extent of the commerce of what was to be the Harrisburg of to-day, with 100 trains of steam cars daily arriving and departing.

While I was forcibly impressed with the superior cultivation of the land in the large territory passed over in my trip, I could not help asking why it was that in Maryland and Virginia and other States that had soils of like natural conditions, and all the facilities, perhaps better, to accomplish an equally advanced progress in land cultivation—the same labor-saving implements, the same improved means of tilling the soil, and that soil easier to bring into fine tilth--were so far behind the go-a-head farmers of this beautiful and productive region? The contrast is not flattering to our immediate people. We are sure if our friends were to visit this beautiful valley of the Susquehanna, so close to our borders, they would learn many lessons of true economy in farming, which would enable them to do much more than make the two ends meet at the end of each year.

W.

#### The Central Agricultural and Mechanical Society of Maryland.

A large meeting of those interested in establishing an Agricultural Society to embrace the counties of Prince George, Anne Arundel, Howard and the city of Baltimore, to be called the *Tri-County* Agricultural and Mechanical Society, was held at the Academy of Music, in the town of Laurel, Prince George County, on the 1st day of May. At the instigation of some prominent farmers of Montgomery, it was resolved to include that county also within the limits of the territory to be embraced in the corporation of the company to be formed, and hence the name of "Tri-County" was changed to that of "Central." A large and very flourishing agricultural portion of Montgomery county lies contiguous to Prince George's and Howard counties, and Laurel is the centre of

business operations, for the people of that section so far as the sending of products to Baltimore and bringing back fertilizers, goods, implements, etc., is concerned, and is also where they take the cars for travelling on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

It will be remembered that some months since, seeing the great stretch of valuable territory lying in the vicinity of three cities, Annapolis, Washington and Baltimore, without any agricultural centre, or agricultural Society as a point d'appui for farmers, while every other section of the country, even counties, far remote from such great marts, and really not half so much in need of an association for the common good of farmers as the unequalled locality of this particular region seemed to imperatively require, we issued a call in the *MARYLAND FARMER* for a meeting of all interested in the matter to be held at Annapolis Junction, on the 29th December, 1879.

In response to this call a meeting was held, but owing to inclement weather the meeting was adjourned, and for various reasons sundry meetings were held, without effect, until the perseverance of a few warm friends of this important cause, culminated in a large and enthusiastic meeting at Laurel on the 1st day of May, which, by a lucky accident, proved to be the inauguration day of Local Option in the county of Prince George's. The friends of the enterprise from this city and from the rural districts were met by a hearty welcome on the part of the people of that beautiful and flourishing manufacturing town, and every convenience and comfort extended to the visitors. The handsome Academy of Music was thrown open to the meeting, and the time not devoted to business was enlivened by animating music from the Laurel Brass Band. At the good old-time farmers' dinner hour the meeting took a recess to accept of the elegant and bountiful collation offered by the ladies. Three long tables in the lower story of the Academy of Music were loaded with the substantials that constitute a farmer's feast, displaying to the best advantage the farm products of the neighborhood, such as meats of variety, butter, milk, honey, and the evidences of the house-keeping qualifications of the ladies of that vicinity in preserves, pickles, canned fruits, desserts, cakes, pies and excellent bread of different kinds, with coffee and cream *ad infinitum*, all of which was served by no servile hands, but the attending Hebes were the fair women of Laurel and its surroundings. This generous hospitality and condescension settled the *locality* of the association. It was woman, not man, that fixed the local habitation of this Central Society. The young bachelors and the old widowers vied with

each other in utterances of praise and loud professions of devotion to woman-kind on this very happy occasion.

This meeting organized the association by adopting a constitution, authorizing the chairman to name the directors for the ensuing year, appointing a committee to procure a deed of incorporation, and adjourned to meet at the same place on the 6th of June next, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

The corporators met at the office of the MARYLAND FARMER on Tuesday, the 25th of May, and signed the Act of Incorporation before Justice John Warfield, of Baltimore City.

The Directors for the ensuing year are Messrs. Arthur P. Gorman, F. M. Hall, Gustavus Lurman, Ezra Whitman, Robert A. Dobbin, John B. Clarke, George H. Nye, Richard Hardesty, E. L. Dorsey, Dr. Thomas Welsh, John Henry Sellman and Edward C. Gilpin.

These gentlemen are requested to meet on the first Saturday in June at 10 o'clock, A. M., at Laurel, so as to transact business before the meeting of the Society at 2 o'clock that day.

The members of the committee to obtain subscriptions to the stock capital of the society are requested by the chairman of the committee to meet punctually at the same place, and time that the directors are desired to meet.

#### Taxing Oleomargarine.

The Butter, Cheese and Egg Association have succeeded in inducing a member of Congress to offer a bill to lay a tax of ten cents per pound on oleomargarine. This, in our opinion, would be a gross injustice, should it ever become a law. To restrict the manufacturers of this article from selling it under a false name, as we said in our last number, is all right and proper, because to sell it as pure butter is as bad as obtaining money under false pretences, but to tax this industry by way of protecting butter-makers is odious. The building up or protecting one branch of industry at the expense of all others, by laying on specific articles, import duties so high as to exclude foreign competition, was always an obnoxious measure to us, and to a large proportion of the agriculturists of the country, and was only submitted to under the plea of necessity, for a time to enable our iron, woollen, cotton and some other manufacturers to get fairly under way, and in a position to compete with like manufacturers from abroad.

It is therefore preposterous to ask for a tax to be placed upon a new invention which has yet

only reached a value of \$17,000,000, to protect the dairy products, which is estimated to be annually worth \$350,000,000. Would not the reverse of the proposition be more reasonable? If oleomargarine is so popular a compound as to be preferred to poor butter, to the extent of \$17,000,000 after so short a time since its use, it must be a valuable invention; and it would be more consistent in the protectionists to give it aid than to hamper it by a tax that bad butter may be sold at a high rate. We give some of the excellent views of the *Farmers Review* upon this subject:

"As well might the dealers in wheat demand the levying of a tax upon all other species of breadstuffs.

"As well might the dealers in beef ask for a tax on every pound of pork, to be paid from the pockets of those deluded people who prefer pork to beef."

"As well might the Southern sugar planter ask protection against those Northern farmers who propose to put upon the market the sugar product of the Northern cane and the sugar beet.

"As well might the producers of cotton demand a tax on every pound of flax produced in the country.

"And so we might go on with every product and every article that interferes in a competitive way with another product or article."

"After all, the general farmer has an interest in oleomargarine as well as in dairy butter and cheese. The animal from which both products come is of his rearing. It grazes upon his pastures and feeds from the products of his grain fields. It is the dealers in dairy products that are going to these extreme absurdities of calling for taxation to crush out a competitive business, and we apprehend that many of their own practices in the butter trade would not bear the closest investigation.

Our dominant idea, when beginning this article, was to deprecate the practice of a resort to government relief in this and similar matters. We do not wish to lose sight of it. Government protection against fraud shou'd be demanded and vouchsafed, but legitimate enterprise should not be crippled by unfavorable legislation.

It is freedom from this interference that has given this country its wonderful material development."

HEAVY FLEECES.—Edward C. Legg, of Queen Anne's county, has sheared from four Cotswold sheep 71 pounds of wool, an average of nearly 18 pounds each.

We have been promised by Mr. Legg a full account of his fine flock and of their shearing, and hoped to have it in this number, but must wait until next number of the FARMER. We, in the meantime, refer the reader to his advertisement in his number of the FARMER.

**The Tri County Agricultural Society, now called "The Central Agricultural Society.**

In response to a resolution passed at a preceding meeting at Annapolis Junction, a large assemblage of farmers and others interested in the purposes aimed at, met at the Academy of Music in the town of Laurel, Prince George's county, and organized, by Mr. Kellogg calling the meeting to order, and moving that W. W. W. Bowie be the presiding officer, which motion was unanimously adopted, and Ezra Whitman was unanimously appointed secretary.

On taking the chair, Mr. Bowie stated the object of the meeting to be the consideration of the report of a committee appointed heretofore to draft a constitution.

The said committee not being just ready to make a report, Prof. Grabowski addressed the meeting upon the past difficulties and present hopeful prospects of the State Agricultural College; concluding by an invitation to the persons present, and the farmers of the whole State, to visit the college at any time and judge by personal inspection the efforts being made to make it an useful institution.

Mr. C. S. Stanley moved that a committee of three be appointed by the chair to view the grounds adjacent to the town of Laurel, and report what grounds would be most suitable in their opinion to locate the Fair Grounds upon. The chair appointed Messrs. Stanley J. R. Clarke and R. Hardisty the committee.

The committee on the constitution then made its report through its chairman, Prof. Grabowski. The constitution, as reported, was first read, and then read by sections seriatim, and each section discussed and amended until a constitution was perfected and adopted, leaving the blank in article 6, requiring directors to manage the company for the first year to be filled by the chairman of this meeting, by unanimous consent of this meeting.

Among the chief changes made in the constitution reported by the committee, was the location of the grounds, and chief office of the company to be fixed within one mile of the town of Laurel; and on motion of Mr. Kellogg, on the intimation of some citizens of Montgomery, that county was also added to the territory of this society, whereupon Mr. Ober suggested that the name of Tri-County be stricken out and some other adopted. On motion of Mr. Stanley, "The Central Agricultural Society" should be inserted in lieu of Tri-County, which was adopted.

The committee on selection of grounds reported through its chairman, Mr. Stanley, that they had discharged the duty required of them, and recommended the plot of land lying within and adjacent to the limits of the town of Laurel, containing about 130 acres of land, belonging to Hon. A. P. Gorman, as the most suitable for the purpose of an Agricultural Society. The report was received and accepted.

On motion of Mr. Ober, a committee of three was appointed to confer with the owners of property in the immediate vicinity and ascertain at what amount a reasonable quantity of land could be secured. The chair appointed on this committee Messrs. G. Ober, Gen. Nye and Mr. Clarke. After a short absence, the committee reported that the Hon. A. P. Gorman had offered 126 or 130 acres of the land selected by the viewing committee at \$40 per acre, upon the payment of a fair portion of the price cash, the balance of the purchase money to be paid in part by stock of the company, and the balance on a long credit.

Mr. Ober then moved that the offer of Mr. Gorman be accepted, and that a vote of thanks be tendered Mr. Gorman for the liberal offer he had made, which was highly advantageous to the society, and was only made because of Mr. Gorman's desire to foster the interests of a society having so laudable a measure in prospect, as the price named was much below the true value of the land. This resolution was passed by acclamation.

A vote of thanks was passed to the ladies of Laurel for their elegant collation furnished the meeting.

A committee, consisting of W. W. W. Bowie, A. P. Gorman, G. N. Nye, J. B. Clarke, L. Dorsey, E. Whitman, G. Ober, R. Hardisty and E. C. Gilpin, was appointed to solicit subscriptions to the stock of the society, and also to confer with the officials of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad as to terms for transportation, etc.

Messrs. C. H. Stanley, A. P. Gorman and E. Wright Newman, were appointed a committee to obtain a Charter for the society before its next meeting.

On motion the society then adjourned, to meet at Laurel on the first Saturday in June at two o'clock, P. M.

**Catalogues Received.**

From Andrew L. Black, Eager street, Baltimore, Maryland, his Catalogue of Bedding Plants and Roses. A large and fine collection.

T. B. Dorsey's Illustrated Catalogue of High Class Poultry, Ellicott City, Maryland.

**CORRECTION.**—By some strange mistake in the article on the Central Agricultural Society, on page 195, the name of Gustavus Lurman occurs, when it should read Gustavus Ober.

**THANKS.**—We return thanks to the Hon. D. Wyatt Aiken, of South Carolina, for a copy of his speech delivered in the House of Representatives on the 13th of May, on the Appropriation Bill, presented by the Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. Aiken warmly espouses the desire to place agriculture upon a more elevated footing. He shows how exalted a consideration is given to it in all the greatest countries of Europe; and how much more reason there is in a nation like ours, to foster this great interest, on which particularly depends the success of our peculiar form of government.

He favors the idea and proves the propriety of elevating the office of Agricultural Commissioner into the Cabinet, making it a department to be represented by its chief in the council of the President's advisers. He shows how vast are the possibilities for the good of the whole country, that may be accomplished by a competent officer, clothed with the enlarged powers and dignities of a Cabinet Minister.

Mr. Aiken gives some astounding statements. He says:—

"The unquestioned conclusion has been arrived at, from successful experiment and legitimate computation, that Illinois might produce and crib her millions of bushels of corn, and from the stalks manufacture annually more sugar than we have ever imported in a single year. To my mind, sir, this is one of the grandest discoveries of the nineteenth century, and should immortalize the parties who made it.

Last year we imported over one billion seven hundred million pounds of sugar, worth abroad \$70,000,000, but costing the consumers over \$110,000,000, by reason of the excessive import duty levied for the protection of less than a score of sugar refineries in two or three of our large cities."

He speaks hopefully of the growing of the Tea Plant, and its manufacture into a commercial article, and urges an appropriation to make experiments in that line.

Mr. Aiken gives a succinct history of the rise and progress of the agricultural department, and shows how necessary it is that it should, in the future, be organized on a basis more commensurate with the growing demands of agriculture, and the increasing necessities of its advanced prosperity in the many widely extended branches of industries connected with it.

We wish our limits permitted us to publish this excellent speech in its entirety.

#### Publications Received.

**Camelia Culture**, by Robert J. Haliday, Baltimore. Our thanks are due to the author for a copy of this practical treatise, well printed and elegantly illustrated with colored and wood engravings. It is one of the few books on flowers that may be said to be original. The author gives in plain terms his experience as a florist, of twenty years, in the propagation and culture of this highly esteemed and costly flower. Every one who glories in having a Camelia in full bearing of flowers, and who does not?—would do well to own a copy of this work, written especially for the benefit of beginners in the culture of this exquisite plant. In the words of the author, we "have no doubt it will be hailed with delight by every true lover of the 'Rose of Japan.'"

**Pallisers' Model Homes** : Bridgeport, Connecticut. Price, \$1.00. We commend this book, written by experienced architects, to not only all persons who intend to build dwellings, barns or other houses, but to carpenters and house-builders, because it is full of illustrations plainly engraved and explained, accompanied with many useful hints. The drawings given are for large and small buildings, of all kinds, and suitable to the South as well as the North. Estimates and details are fully given. The work shows how beauty and convenience in architecture can be produced with no increase of price over a similar structure devoid of all ornamentation. The very form of a roof often imparts elegance and comfort, with no extra expense or cost. Its value and low price must command a ready sale.

**Beet Root Sugar**, by E. B. Grant. Published by Lee & Shepard, Boston. Price, \$1.25 We have received this valuable treatise through Messrs. Cushing & Bailey, of Baltimore, who have it for sale. It gives a history of Beet Sugar, how it is made, cost of manufacture, etc. It also shows the many advantages of growing Beets for sugar making, and the value to farmers of the leaves and pulp, and a complete system of culture of the Beet. We should think it almost inestimable to every one engaging in growing of the Beet for sugar, in connection with stock feeding and dairying.

THE MARYLAND FARMER for May is received. It contains letters from London, has an article on farm work for May, garden work for May, good advice, history of Maryland Agricultural Society, rearing calves, manure for corn, local option, Oxen Hill Farmers' Club, wheat and fruit, sweet potato culture, strange diseases with sheep, etc., etc. Every farmer should subscribe. Published by Ezra Whitman, Baltimore, Md., at the low price of \$1 per annum in advance.—*Frederick Examiner*.

*Live Stock Register.**Liver Rot in Sheep.*

The English Stock Journals devote much space to the discussion of this new disease, which has lately made such extensive havoc with the sheep in those counties of England, where the largest and best flocks are to be found in the kingdom. The seat of the disease is the liver, and caused by a parasite called a "fluke." This fluke, in its curious development, is similar to tape worm.

Mr. Buckmaster, before the Corn Exchange at Grantham, said regarding it:

"Here you have a living thing the shape of a sole, about half an inch in length, of a dark brown color, apparently without nerves, legs, eyes, or sex. This thing finds its way through the stomach, and fastens itself by a sucker on the liver of a sheep. Here it lays eggs—some say 2,000 or 3,000, others 40,000. These eggs pass out of the body and are distributed over the land; that hen's eggs scattered over the fields would never become chickens, nor can these eggs become flakes without the favorable conditions of moisture and warmth. The egg bursts, and the embryo of the future fluke floats or swims about. In passing through other changes, some say four, others six, it becomes what is called an encysted cercaria. It is now taken with the food into the stomach, and develops into a perfect fluke in the liver, where it lays eggs which pass through the same round of development. It is said that if taken into the stomach in any intermediate condition between the egg and the encysted cercaria it never develops into a fluke; others have stated that it can be developed direct from the egg."

Stewart in his *Shepherd's Manual*, published by the Orange Judd Company, New York, says of it:

"The fluke is a member of a family of sucking worms (similar to the leeches), known as *distomæ*. It is a flat; oval-shaped animal, more thickly conical in front, and has a sucker or mouth. Where the thicker part joins the flatter hinder part there is a second sucker upon the under side. The fluke is a highly organized animal. It possesses a branched intestinal canal and digestive organs, and a fully developed circulatory system, possesses the power of self-impregnation should a second individual not be present. It propagates by means of eggs, which are produced in great numbers, and which pass with the bile into the intestinal canal, from whence they are voided with the dung of the sheep. The eggs need to be washed by rain or flood into stagnant water to become developed. The embryo, covered with ciliæ or arms, the locomotive organs, leaves the shell and swims in the water. It is then believed, from our present knowledge of its habits, to penetrate the bodies of snails or other amphibious molluscs, and thus pass a stage of its existence. These soft-bodied molluscs being swallowed by the sheep, which graze in low moist pastures, along with the herbage, the parasites contained in them are introduced into the stomach, from which they pass by the gall

ducts into the liver, and thus complete the round of their existence. They collect in masses, sometimes closely packed in the gall ducts, obstruct the flow of the gall; and set up irritation, and thus produce jaundice, by which the membranes are colored yellow. At this first outset of the disease the animal seems to thrive and make fat rapidly, but the fat is highly colored, especially that of the kidneys and brisket. Some English feeders have purposely exposed their sheep to the flukes to hasten the fattening; but, this stage passed, the structure of the liver becomes changed from the irritation and pressure; the gall ducts become enlarged into extensive cavities, which are filled with flukes and their eggs. The pain thus caused makes the animal restless and thin. The partial destruction of the liver and stoppage of its functions causes diarrhoea, dropsy, and the disorganization of the blood, which constitute the fatal rot.

*Sheep Husbandry.*

There is no other kind of live stock which has, for so many years, proved so profitable for the farmers to raise as sheep, and it will be many a long year ere sheep husbandry will cease to command the attention and produce the comfortable profits which it now does under proper systems of management. There are some exceptional years, when prices rule low, that breeders in some sections get scared, yet we doubt whether the price for wool has ever gotten below the profit mark, and brought the breeder in debt for his labors. Is there any other kind of stock which has so much to its credit as that? Virginia and many other parts of the South are eminently fitted for sheep-raising, and we hope to see her flocks yearly increasing, both in numbers and in excellence, for with good lands, genial climate, and nearness to markets, those who adopt sheep husbandry in suitable localities will receive a liberal reward for their labors, provided they give the sheep that care and watchful attention which must be accorded to make success assured, not merely with sheep, but with all kinds of live stock whatever. Large flocks of fine sheep mean enriched fields, and enriched fields mean better crops, and better crops mean prosperity to the tiller of the soil, and he who brings up a poor farm to a good state of fertility, deserves every penny he receives, and more too. There are many farms in our large State where sheep could be found profitable, and where there are now but few, if any. Some are rough and uneven of surface, where it is not possible or profitable to cultivate with the plow, but on which grows a good coating of grasses, and here sheep would thrive splendidly, other things being in unison. There are other places where a young growth of tender shoots are beginning to come up.

on cut timber tracts, and it would not pay to clean up the land at present. Sheep will keep this young growth down nicely and make the best possible use of it, though it is not good policy to keep them entirely on this, if you wish to get the greatest profit from your sheep, for a generous feeder is sure to make more profit from his stock than one who stint his animals, compelling them either to hunt up their own living, scanty though it may be, or else go without. Most of our wool now goes to Northern markets, either for manufacture there or shipment abroad, and comes back to us in the form of manufactured goods, with all the profits and shipping expenses added. While it may be, and no doubt is, necessary to find a market for our produce outside of our own immediate State, to a certain extent, it should be remembered that the cost of shipment, whether by rail or boat, is but little, if any, more on manufactured goods than on the raw material, while in the former case the cost of manufacture is distributed among our own people.

While we may not now be able to support large factories with our clips of wool, it will not be so long we hope, for we are anxious to see this branch of industry—sheep husbandry—grow soon to the proportions and importance it so richly deserves at the hands of our farmers and planters generally. Statistics, as well as individual and collective experience, amply prove the profitableness of sheep husbandry, especially for the wool crop, which is always in demand.—*American Breeder and Planter.*

**WHAT THE ENGLISH SAY OF OUR CATTLE.**—Americans have done more for the rank and file of their common native breeds in the last five years, than English farmers have done for their rank and file during the last twenty years. If any one doubts this, let him go and look at a lot of imported American beasts, and then go to the fairs and markets of any part of the country—with the exception of certain breeding districts—and draw his own conclusions. Of course, the United States cattle we now receive are the best they have to send, quite the pick of their markets; but five years ago they had few, if any, as good to send. As things are going on now, the cattle of Colorado and Texas will be a long way ahead of our ordinary cattle in ten years' time. The horned stock to be found in summer in the New Forest in Hampshire, would be a disgrace to Montana itself.—*Mark Lane Express.*

THE MARYLAND FARMER, in our judgment the best agricultural periodical published in this State, is on our table, filled with useful information for the farmer and gardener.—*Centreville Observer.*

**BREEDING SWINE.**—A brood sow is usually at her best as a producer, in the number and quality of pigs as well as in the secretion of milk, when she is from two to three years old. The number of pigs dropped at a litter will usually increase with each successive litter up to the third or fourth, provided the sow is put to breeding so as to drop her first litter when she is about a year old, as is the custom with most breeders of swine. After the sow reaches four years of age, her powers of gestation usually grow weaker, and she is much less liable to save the pigs that may be dropped. Like all other general rules, there are exceptions to this; but, under ordinary circumstances, we would not recommend the keeping of brood sows, by farmers who are raising hogs for the general market, after they reach four years of age.—*National Live Stock Journal.*

*For the Maryland Farmer.*

#### One Hundred Bushels of Corn per Acre.

We were not a little interested in the article of Mr. Lawes, of Rothamstead, Eng., in the May number of the FARMER, for the reason that it is so diametrically opposed to what might be termed the view to which New England farmers have been educated to in, the school of Experience. Now, if we fully understand the ideas of Mr. Lawes, they are identical with those that were entertained by New England farmers perhaps a century ago, and to which the present generation refer as the cause of the deterioration of the soil, which as a whole is acknowledged to have occurred. Our ancestors are supposed to have been of the opinion that it was best to extend the culture of their crops—for the rule of culture that will apply in this respect to the corn crop will apply to all others—over the greatest possible surfaces, obtaining all that such a system of culture would produce, and what was the result?—a gradual but certain deterioration of the soil, which finally became so sterile as to require an abandonment to the recuperating force of nature, as put forth in the growth of forests, by means of the decomposing leaves and branches that fall to the ground. So at this day it is no uncommon occurrence to find in dense forests of apparently fifty or seventy-five, and perhaps more, years' growth, evidences of stone walls, and piles of stones, as are shown in the cultivated fields of to-day. What the yield per acre of corn of those earlier days was, cannot be accurately determined, but judging from the yield of the poorer fields of the last twenty-five years, which did not exceed from twenty to twenty-five bushels per acre, it must have been very light.

But more recently the yield of from seventy-five to one hundred or more bushels per acre is not an uncommon occurrence, and in fact the universal testimony is that it is easier and better to produce 100 bushels from one acre than the same quantity from two acres. Of course there is a certain natural capacity of the soil for the production of crops, and all that comes above that must come from special application of manures, and then the increase in consequence will depend wholly upon the amount of the application, and if commercial or natural manures are applied, it is not supposed that it will be so soluble as that all of its virtue will be extracted by the present growing crop; in fact only about such an amount can be dissolved in one season, and therefore, as is found in practice, the greater the application of manure the larger the crop, and at the same time the better the condition of the soil after the removal of the crop. Perhaps Mr. Lawes, for whose opinions we have a very high regard, may have experimented sufficiently to satisfy himself upon the points of its requiring "very much more manure" to obtain 100 bushels from one acre than would be required to obtain the same number of bushels from two acres, but we had not supposed that to be a fact, unless we went back to the question of tillage, because that would appear to partially ignore the effect of manure, because other things being equal if one bushel of manure would produce a certain amount of grain, we ought to expect that a double amount would double the production, that is that in so far as manures occasion any effect at all upon crops, that effect should be increased in proportion to the increase of application, to a certain limit, beyond which the effects would be much less marked. But take another view of the case: If an attempt to produce maximum crops requires an application of manure in greater excess of what is actually used than for a smaller crop, there would be a greater storing of fertility in the soil which will thus be improving its natural fertility. Now by the system of New England farming, we do not pursue constant cropping with cultivated crops, but seed down and give a rest, so to speak, for a few years, and by the method of aiming at maximum crops we get much better grass, and in fact the whole system is improved. It will require a great amount of argumentation to prove to a New England farmer that it is better to perform the labor upon two acres of land in the preparation of soil—plowing and marking, planting, hoeing, and harvesting, to produce 80 bushels of shelled corn, rather than upon one acre if it can be done as well, otherwise where would come the limit? If it were better to go over two acres, then would it

not also be better to go over four acres? or again over eight? No, no, a thousand times no; rather encourage concentrated farming that shall furnish upon a small space abundant supplies, that all the broad acres of New England and the Middle States may be open to the occupancy of industrious citizens, who are willing to work the bosom of old mother earth, to the end of obtaining nourishment. We do not plead for New England as above other sections; Maryland has broad fields and is open to the industrious, extending kind invitations to all to come and till her soil, thus adding to her productive industry, and to all who will thus come we have no doubt the voice of friendship will be heard. We believe her people to be hospitable, kind hearted and generous, and that the settler within her borders would be as much at home, and his rights as carefully protected as if he chose New England for a permanent abode.

The great desire of every true American citizen should be the prosperity of our whole country, in all its branches of productive industry, as becomes the members of our common brotherhood.

*Columbia, Conn.*

W.M. H. YEOMANS.

#### Crops in Prince George County and in the West.

**EDITORS FARMER:**—From various sources, verbal letters, and printed, I learn that the crop and fruit prospects in Prince George, and some other portions of Maryland, are anything but favorable; but hope that the late rains will much improve matters in that respect very soon.

I have reliable information from different sections of Michigan and some portions of Ohio which state the prospects for large yields, of both grains and fruits, were never better than at the present time, especially on the plowed-in clover and well drained lands; while it is reported that the fruit trees generally hang too full of young sets, and much thinning out will be resorted to, in order to secure large, fine quality, and to avoid exhausting the trees.

In Michigan much spring wheat has been put in, and now looks very promising for a large yield, as well as the winter wheat and oats.

D. S. C.

**THE DEATH OF AN OLD CORRESPONDENT.**—We much regret to hear of the death of Dr. Snodgrass, who for years past has contributed to the pages of the MARYLAND FARMER. Our readers will miss his pleasant and instructive letters. During a long and busy life, Dr. Snodgrass acquired a large reputation as a fluent writer on political, horticultural and literary topics. He was an efficient member of the Potomac Fruit Growers Association of the District of Columbia,

## LADIES DEPARTMENT.

## Chats with the Ladies for June.

BY PATUXENT PLANTER.

## SUMMER SHOWERS.

"In a valley that I know--  
Happy scene !  
There are meadows sloping low,  
There the fairest flowers blow  
And the brightest waters flow,  
All serene ;  
But the sweetest thing to see,  
If you ask the dripping tree,  
Or the harvest-hoping swain,  
Is the Rain !"

After the long dry spell we endured in May, and the unprecedented hot days toward its close, there was nothing so welcome to parched vegetation, and so pleasant to humanity, as the beautiful showers which came on the 22d and 27th of that month. The flowers were languishing and dying. But, since the refreshing showers, we can say with the poet,—

" The welcome flowers are blossoming,  
In joyous troops revealed ;  
They lift their dewy buds and bells,  
In garden, mead, and field ;  
They lurk in every sunless path  
Where forest children tread ;  
They dot, like stars, the sacred turf,  
Which lies above the dead.

They sport with every playful wind  
That stirs the blooming trees,  
And laugh on every fragrant bush,  
All full of toiling bees :  
From the green marge of lake and stream,  
Fresh vale, and mountain sod,  
They look in gentle glory forth—  
The pure sweet flowers of God."

Flowers are everywhere in places that the rude hands of the utilitarian have left untouched, and it is these uncultivated children of the wilderness I love most, for they are often in my lonely walks the sweet remembrancers of the days that have long been past, and of many dear ones who now live only in fond memory. In admiring the wild flowers I came upon the other early morn, hiding themselves in the ferns and mosses and under the azaleas all aglow with their vari-colored blossoms, there seemed to break on my ear the same softly spoken words that long, long ago enraptured me, as they were uttered by an angelic girl :

"Your voiceless lips, O flowers ! are living preachers,

Each cup a pulpit, and each leaf a book,  
Supplying to my fancy numerous teachers  
From loveliest nooks."

The little girls and boys should be interested, in not only cultivating and caring for flowers, by giving them some good plants to be known as theirs, and stimulated by ownership to do their best to excel others in growing superior flowers or fruits, but they should be taught the art of rearing poultry, and encouraged to be attentive, gentle, pains-taking, industrious, and appreciative of what is right, just and proper, by high rewards, when they illustrate these virtues in their employments of these sorts. Children are like grown-up people, they feel a deeper interest in what they call their property than in what wholly belongs to another. Self-interest is a great promoter of a proper sense of duty, and that principle affects the conduct of minors as strongly as it does adults. Encouragement and praise of good conduct is much more efficacious in proper training of children than harsh treatment for wrong, and no acknowledgement for what is well done. No system of education is proper which embraces punishments for wrong doings and no rewards for good actions. Kind, approving words for estimable conduct, is far in advance of severity for error.

It often occurs that a parent or teacher treats good conduct simply as the performance of duty, and gives no public credit for such a duty well and properly performed, while the non-performance of that duty is severely rebuked or punished. There are more human beings flattered into the attainment of noble ends than forced by fear of ill treatment — that is, I believe, the hope of reward is far more successful than the fear of punishment. Love and confidence is infinitely more conducive to household happiness than reticence and fear. There are some unfortunate men and women who never praise, yet never fail to rebuke or punish, as occasions may arise. One bad habit is to scold and wound the feelings of the child in presence of third persons for any fault committed. This only burns and sears ; it is the quiet, private rebuke and gentle remonstrance which cuts deep, and exorcises the wickedness, if any there may be. Let love rule the household, and there never will be occasion for anger to cloud the sunshine of that peace and happiness which should ever illumine the domestic altar.

The following lines were written by a distinguished lawyer of Illinois, in compliment to three sisters who are daughters of "My Maryland" :

THE THREE GRACES.

TO AMIE, MARY AND ADDIE.

We are told in ancient story  
That three sisters shared the glory :  
(This a secret, dears, between us)  
Of being "honor-maids" to Venus.  
Lovely in their forms and faces,  
Ancients called those sisters Graces ;  
And through the ages all along  
They've been the theme of prose and song.  
Living in mythologic days,  
And knowing naught of crimp and stays ;  
Of princess dress or bodices,  
'Tho' called the sister goddesses ;  
There may, perhaps, be reason why  
We should not now their charms deny.  
But, nevertheless, it seems to me,  
That Thalia, Euphrosyne,  
And Aglaia, however fair,  
Could not in form or lace compare  
With other sisters three, whom I  
Have met beneath a modern sky.  
And I predict—indeed I know—  
That in a thousand years or so,  
When men shall speak of them and *you*,  
The old-time Graces and the new ;  
The verdict of mankind will be,  
That of the rival "Graces three,"  
Mary, Ameha, Adeline.  
Though more of earth, were more divine.  
Chicago, April 1860.

Domestic Recipes.

As the strawberry season is at hand we give some excellent recipes from the *Rural Messenger*, Va.

FOR CORDIAL.—Squeeze through a linen bag a sufficient quantity of ripe strawberries. To each quart of the juice allow a half pound of powdered sugar and a pint of white brandy. Put this liquid into a glass jar or demijohn, and let it stand a fortnight. Then filter it through a sieve, to the bottom of which a piece of fine muslin or blotting paper has been fastened, and afterwards bottle it.

FOR JELLY.—Select fine, rich berries, and squeeze them through a jelly bag. To a pint of juice thus obtained, allow one half pound of broken sugar, and a pint of red currant juice, to which you add one pound of sugar to every six pints of strawberry juice. Boil until it forms a jelly. To keep it from fermenting, spread a layer

of apple jelly over it, or a paper dipped in sugar boiled to a candy.

FOR JAM.—Wash the fruit, mash ; to one pound of berries put one pound of sugar ; boil a half hour, stirring constantly ; when of good thickness put in glass jars.

STRAWBERRY AND BLACKBERRY JELLY.—Crush the fruit and warm, but not boil it ; strain over night through a cloth ; one pint juice, half pound sugar ; boil twenty minutes.

HOME SODA WATER.—Pour three pints of boiling water over three pounds of white sugar, and allow it to stand until cool. Then add the whites of three eggs well beaten, two ounces of tartaric acid, and one ounce essence of wintergreen. Take two tablespoonsfuls of this liquid in a tumbler, and fill it two-thirds full of water, then add one-half a teaspoonful of carbonate of soda, and stir it up until it foams.

FRIED PEACHES.—Take good sized free-stone peaches, wipe them with a towel, halve them and place them flat side down in hot butter or lard. Let them fry to a nice brown, then turn and fill the seed cup with sugar, which by the time the fruit is properly cooked, will be melted and form, with the juice of the peach, a rich syrup. Serve up hot, and if you don't like them you need not repeat the experiment. Most people think the dish a superb one.

BAKED PEACHES.—Cut the peaches in two, remove the stone, having first wiped the fruit well. With a paste cutter (if you want something fanciful, otherwise, simple squares will do) cut some slices of bread. On each piece place half a peach, skin down, dust well with sugar; put a tiny piece of butter on each, and bake slowly. When done dish them and turn the juice over, if any; otherwise, add syrup of pears and serve warm. Apricots and prunes may be served likewise.

GREEN PEA SOUP WITHOUT MEAT.—Two heads lettuce, cut up ; 2 cucumbers, pared and sliced ; 3 onions, cut up ; 1 pint of peas ; put in a stew pan, with a quarter pound of fresh butter, with a little pepper and salt ; cover them down and let them stew until tender. Have a quart of peas stewing in two quarts of water, with a sprig of mint, a little parsley and thyme chopt fine. When the peas are done, pulp them through a sieve, add the liquor they were stewed in, and the other ingredients, and serve hot. It is a dish relished by all, and serves as a variety to pea-cooking, which gives zest, now that peas are plenty, and we have become satiated with this nice vegetable cooked in the usual way.



#### Bates' Harvester.

The above is a good illustration of the "Bates' Harvester," advertised by the enterprising firm of Slifer, Merryman & Co., in our advertising columns this month. It is claimed by the manufacturers that this is the best harvester now in the field. It is an improvement upon the famous Buckeye Reaper and Mower, so long manufactured by the company at Lewisburgh, Union Co., Pa. The advantages of this harvester over others is said to be in lightness of weight, durability, simplicity of structure, light draft, and ease with which it is made to do good work. See advertisement.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, of Nurserymen, Florists, Seedsmen and Kindred Interests, in the City of Chicago, June 16, 1880, and continuing three days.

The Fifth Annual Meeting of this Association will be held as above announced. Among the objects sought by the Association are, the exchange and sale of nursery products, implements, and labor saving devices. The exhibition and introduction of new varieties of fruits, trees, plants, etc. To avoid the evils of dishonest tree agents, etc.

There will be many other questions of much importance presented for discussion and the action of the Association. Papers on Horticultural Topics, from some of the best minds of the country, are offered. Addresses from gentlemen eminent in Horticultural Science, are promised, and the occasion will be one of great profit to all participants.

Specimens of seeds, fruits, flowers, implements, etc., are requested for the exhibition tables.

For further particulars and full programme, address either of the officers of the Association. T. S. Hubbard, President, Fredonia, New York; D. Wilmot Scott, Secretary, Galena, Illinois.

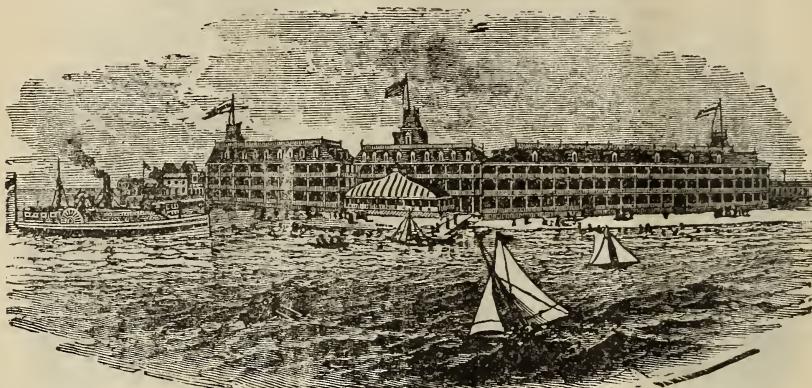
THE HISTORY OF MARYLAND, by Hon. J. Thomas Scharf, of Baltimore, Md., in three volumes, published by John B. Piet.

This admirable History of the State of Maryland supplies a want long endured by Marylanders and all who felt interested in the early history of the old State. The historian has done his work faithfully, and has evinced great research and industry in collating facts from historic rolls and individual sources. The arrangement of the matter is admirable, and the style unexceptionable. The beautiful typography, the clean paper, and the elegant make-up of the books do credit to the publisher, and is in keeping with the dignity of the work. These volumes are well illustrated and contain valuable maps, diagrams, and facsimiles of important documents. It is without doubt the best history of Maryland ever published and in minute details of historic information perhaps exceeds that of any history of any of the old Thirteen States which has yet appeared. It should become a text book in every college, be read in every school, and a copy be found in every private library, of Maryland.

The Hughes Cultivator Co., advertise their famous "Cultivator and Pulverizer." Farmers will do well to examine this improved cultivator which has many advantages over others heretofore in use.

THE HYGEIA HOTEL.  
OLD POINT COMFORT, VA.

H. Phoebus, proprietor.



Situated 100 yards from Fort Monroe, at the confluence of the Chesapeake Bay and Hampton Roads, being the first point of land lying westward between the capes of Virginia, about fifteen miles north of Norfolk and Portsmouth; all passenger steamers running to and from those cities touch at the pier, going and returning, with the United States mails, landing only 20 rods from the hotel, which is substantially built and comfortably furnished; has hydraulic passenger elevator, gas and electric bells in all rooms; water, rooms for bath, including HOT SEA, and closets on every floor, with the most perfect system of drainage of any hotel or public building in the country, and as a resort for the pleasure-seeker, invalid, or resting-place for tourists on their way to Florida or the North, this house, with accommodations for about seven hundred guests, presents inducements which certainly are not equaled elsewhere as a summer resort or cold weather sanitarium; the invigorating atmosphere and mild temperature being especially adapted to that class who seek the genial winters of the South and cool summers of the North. For sleeplessness and nervousness the delicious tonic of the pure ocean air and the lullaby of the ocean waves rolling upon the sandy beach, but a few feet from the bed room windows, are most hopeful soporifics at the Hygeia. For further information address by mail or telegraph.

Notices of Advertisers.

We call attention to the advertisement of the Old Point Comfort, or Fortress Monroe Hotel. A healthier, more delightful summer resort is not to be found on the Atlantic border. The bathing is splendid, the air refreshing, society most refined, accommodations excellent, and to those fond of boating and fishing and enjoying the delicacies obtained from the waters, it is a place specially attractive.

Jacob Waltz offers a remarkable remedy for the curing of a painful complaint; see his advertisement.

We take pleasure in calling attention to the advertisement of Mr. Legg's superior Cotswold sheep, referred to elsewhere in the pages of this Journal.

Those who want any excellent paints, varnishes, and oils, &c., would do well to read the advertisement of Messrs. Hirshberg, Hollander & Co.

Mr. Francis Morris offers for sale, in our advertisement columns, 25 Southdown Buck Lambs, of best blood and fine quality, at a very low price, *provided they are not to leave the State.* This liberal offer will no doubt be availed of by the breeders of this fine breed of mutton-sheep within the limits of our State.

AN AGE OF IMPROVEMENT.—We live in an age of improvements, as is evident to all when we consider the wonderful discoveries which are coming to light day by day. One of the latest and most wonderful is the discovery of Kendall's Spavin Cure, which will cure a spavin, splint, curb, callous or ring bone, and remove the enlargement without even blistering or causing a sore, and it has recently been tested for deep-seated pains, rheumatism, enlargements, and many similar difficulties on man as well as beast, and it has been found to work so well that it is now believed to be the very best liniment for external use on man, that has ever been discovered. It can be used full strength at all seasons of the year with perfect safety. Read the advertisement for Kendall's Spavin Cure.

## BALTIMORE MARKETS-- JUNE 1.

## BUTTER.

For table use.....	0 33a0 35
"    Cooking and bakery.....	0 10a0 14

## CHEESE.

N. Y. State.....	0 13a0 15
"    Western.....	12a14

## COTTON.

Demand is good.....	11 1/4 a 2
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## EGGS.

Different localities.....	12a14
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## FERTILIZERS.

Jobbing rates are here quoted. Contracts for large orders can be made at reduced figures. 2,000 lbs. to the ton

Peruvian Guano.....	\$50 00a65 00
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Turner's Excelsior.....	\$50 00
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do Ammonia Sup. Phos.....	40 00
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Soluble Pacific Guano.....	45 00
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Basin's & Co.'s Sol. S. Is. Guano.....	50 00
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Excellenza Soluble Phosphate.....	50 00
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do Cotton Fertilizer.....	50 00
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Holloway's Excelsior.....	46 00
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Holloway's Phosphate.....	40 00
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Whitman's Phosphate.....	45 00
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Plaster.....	per bbl. 1 75
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Orchilla Guan A. per ton.....	80 00
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South Sea Guano.....	50 00
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Slingluff & Coa Dissolved Raw Bone.....	45 00
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Slingluff & 's Dissolved Bone Ash.....	40 00a42 00
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Whitman's Potato Phosphate.....	45 00
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" Dissolved Missouri Bone.....	45 00
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"    "    "    Bone Ash.....	40 00
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## GRAIN.

Corn.....	0 55a0 60
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Oats.....	0 40a0 45
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Rye.....	0 90a0 93
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Wheat.....	1 20a1 25
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## POTATOES.

Early Rose, per bbl.....	3 00a2 50
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Peerless, per bbl.....	2 00a2 25
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Peach Blow, per bbl.....	2 00a2 10
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## LIVE STOCK.

Beef Cattle.....	4a450
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Hogs, fat.....	4 1/2 a6
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Sheep.....	4a4 50
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## SEEDS.

Clover Alsike.....	3 lb 40c
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do Lucerne best.....	4c
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do Red, Choice.....	8c
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do White.....	40c
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Flaxseed.....	3 bush. a1.00
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Grass Red Top.....	3 bush. 1.25a1.50
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do Orchard.....	2.25a
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do Italian Eye.....	3.50
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do Hungarian.....	
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do German Millet, per bus.....	
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do Ordinary ".....	
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do Timothy 45 lb.....	2.75
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do Kentucky Blue.....	1.50a2. 0
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## Cotswold Sheep for Sale.

—:0:—

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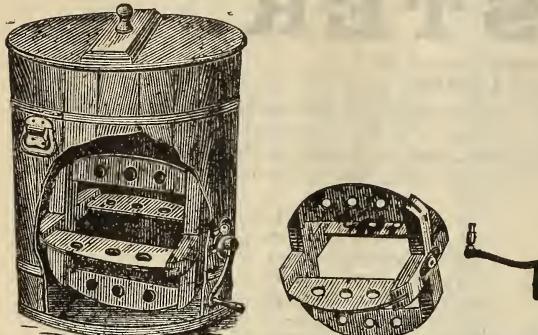
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9.00 †Washington, and Way stations. (On  
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10.30 WASHINGTON EXPRESS.

P. M.

12.15 Washington, Annapolis and way stations.

1.30 On Sunday only for Washington and  
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4.00 WASHINGTON EX. RICHMOND, via Quantico

4.20 Winchester, Hagerstown, Frederick and  
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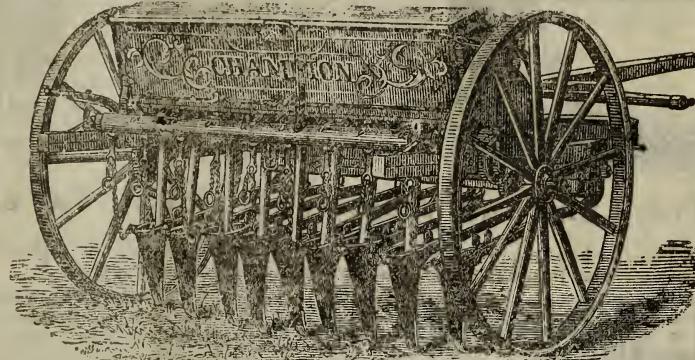
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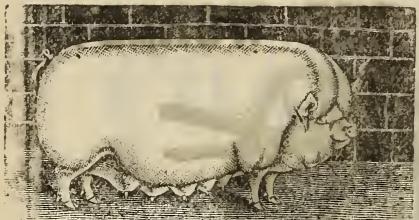
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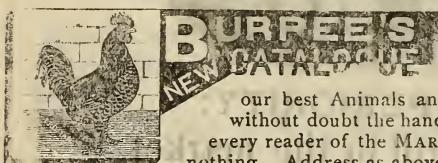
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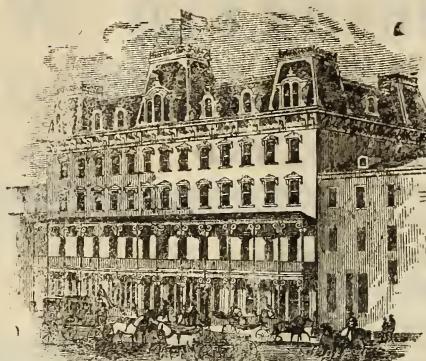
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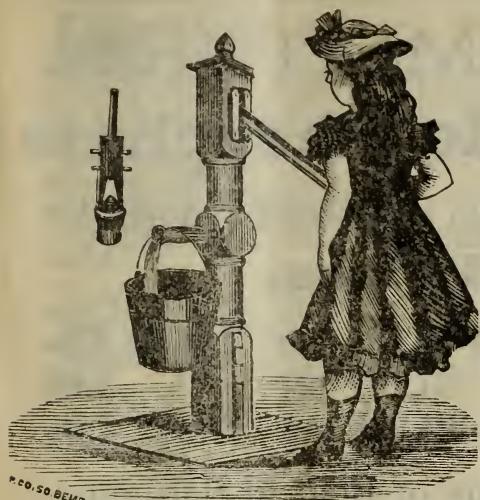
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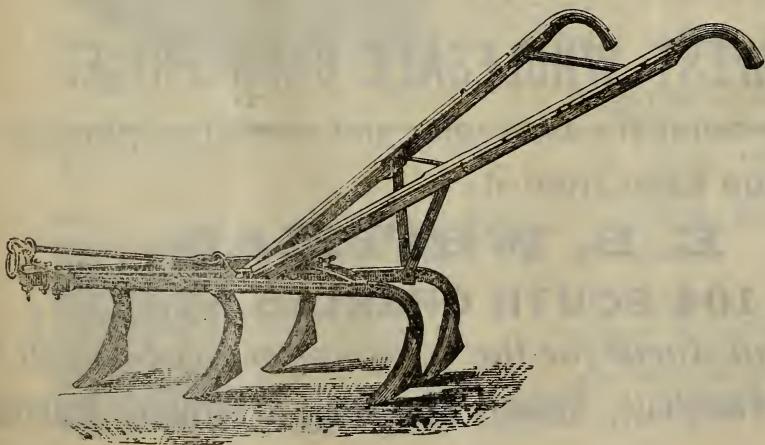
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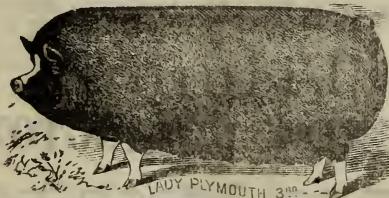
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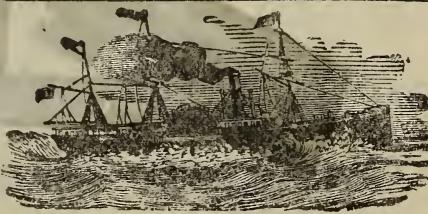
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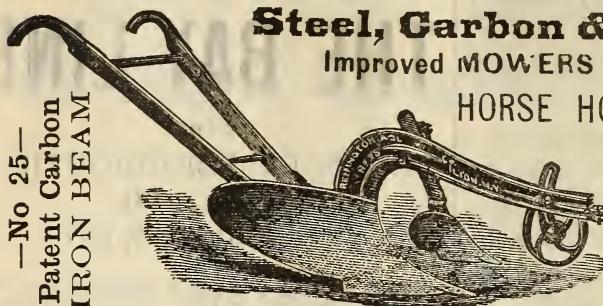
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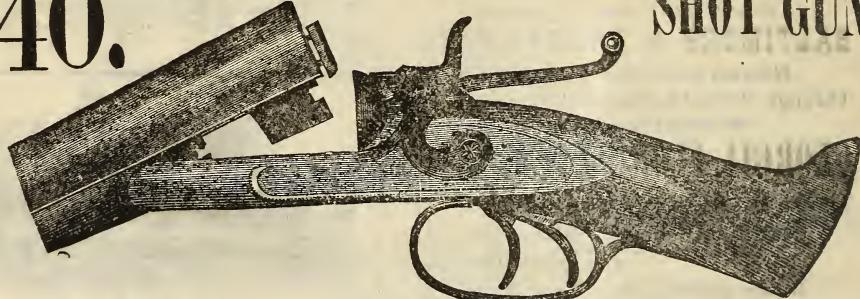
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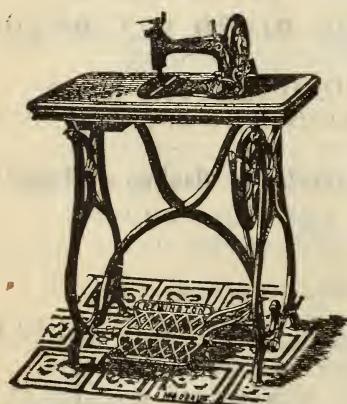
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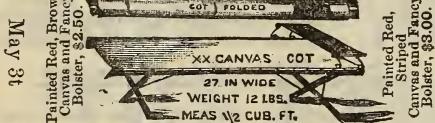
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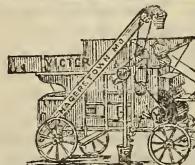
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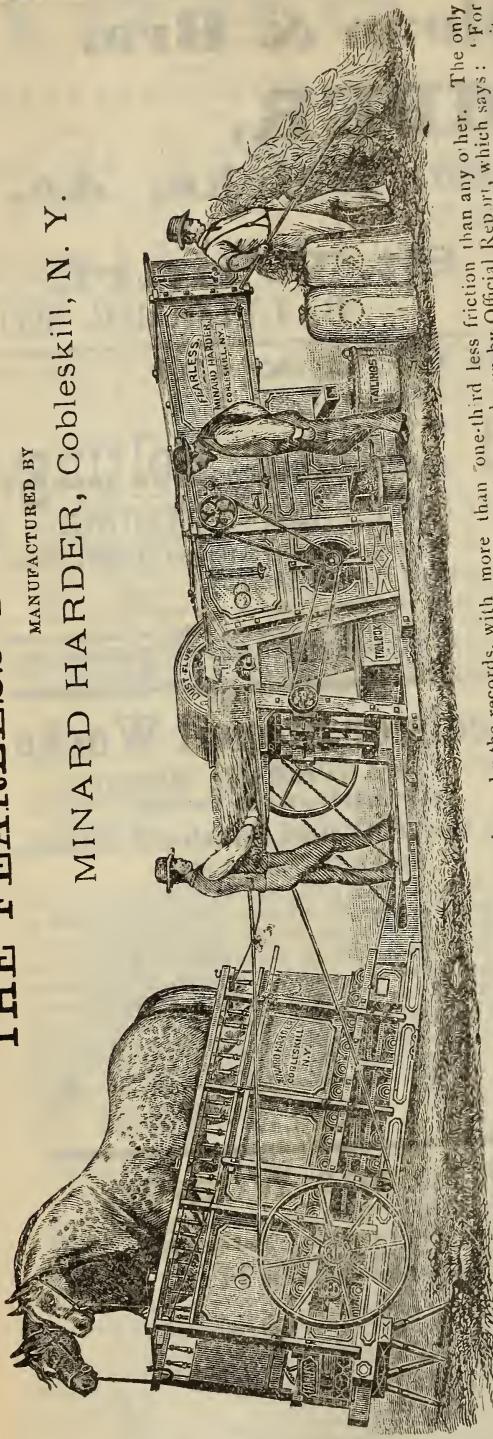
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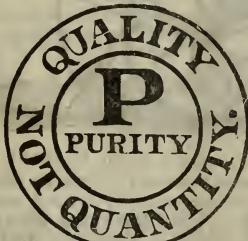
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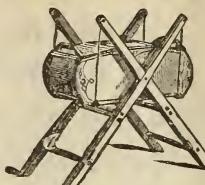
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AWARDED FIRST PREMIUM  
over all competitors at  
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contains no floats or in-  
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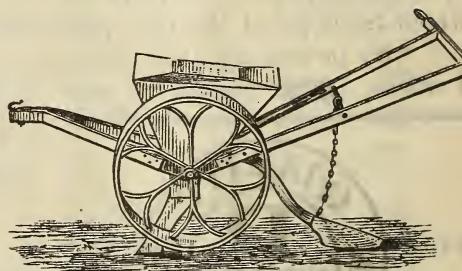
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BEAN AND PEA DRILL,



This machine will sow in drills all kinds of seeds, from beet down to the smallest seeds, without regard to weight, shape or size, with regularity, and without failure as long as there is seed in the hopper, and is guaranteed to give satisfaction; and will do the work with one man, that would take a half-dozen men in a given time. It can be sent anywhere, by R. R. or Express, on receipt of the price, which is only \$5, and warranted to work as represented.

It is upon the principle of the old English hand seed drills, with the revolving brush used for many years in England. Address,

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Cultivate all the Farm Crops in the Best Manner;  
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It is warranted simple, strong,  
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Plants of the newest and finest im-  
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I grow over 100 varieties, the most com-  
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Catalogues, gratis by mail. Also Bulbs,  
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**C. C.** The True Cape Cod Cranberry, best  
sort for Upland, Lowland, or Garden,  
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will be ready in February, with a colored plate.

It is full in really good and beautiful plants—  
New Dracocænas: Goldeana, Princess Margaret  
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An immense Stock of all the New and Stand-  
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New Pears, New Peaches—with a large stock  
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### Ornamental Trees

in great variety for Parks, Lawns, Garden, &c.

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of all sizes, all of the finest quality, and at the low-  
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of the finest quality, fresh and pure grown by my-  
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Being extensively engaged in importing and  
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consequently my facilities for seed saving are un-  
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The following Catalogues with others now ready  
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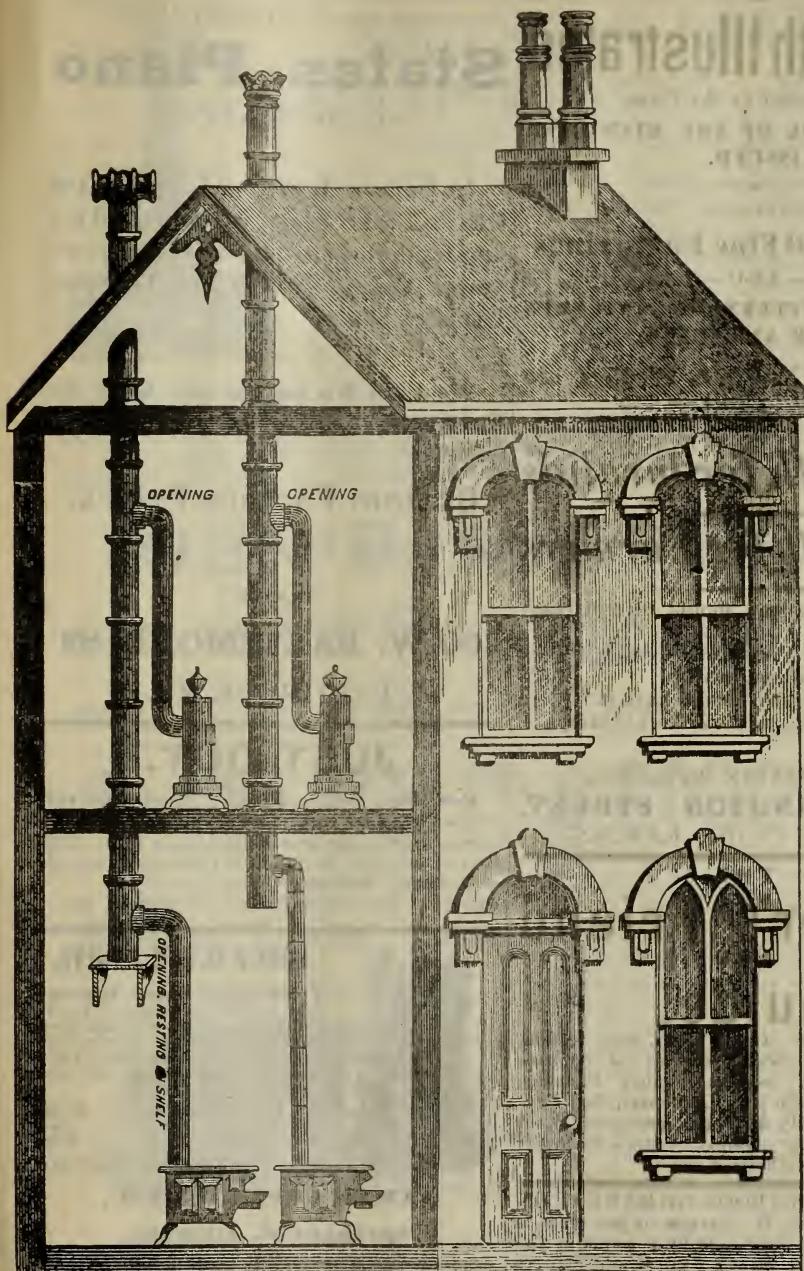
No. 2. A Catalogue of Garden, Agri-  
cultural, and Flower Seeds.

No. 5. Descriptive Catalogue of a  
Selection of Roses.

No. 6. A Catalogue of New, Rare  
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Plate free to Customers—to others, 10  
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THE NEW HAND BOOK OR MANUAL ON FRUITS, BY R. H. HAINES, is just what is wanted in many a home. It fully explains the cultivation of BOTH, SMALL FRUITS and FRUITS TREES, and contains many pretty suggestions as to how the time may be passed pleasantly in the Gardens or orchards. It tells HOW TO GROW LARGE BERRIES, and to have full crops of Plums, &c., as well as giving some 200 or 300 other facts of interest to Fruit Growers. Send for a Copy while making your Gardens this Spring. Price 50 cents. Address, R. H. HAINES, Saugerties, on Hudson, N. Y.

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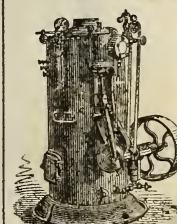
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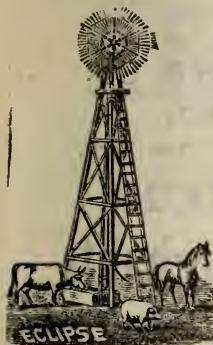
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3 Horse Power	... \$240
4½ " "	... 280
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ONE MAN TO FORTY-HORSE POWER.—VICTORIOUS.

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The ECLIPSE was the only Wind Mill at Centennial that run through the six months' exhibition without breakage or repairing, and there were eight other makes there. I would respectfully refer to a few of the following Baltimore gentlemen who have them: Hon. James A. Gary, Edwin Beannett, H. Clay Miller, H. W. Rogers, John R. Long, Capt. Wm D. Burchinal, J. Randall Mordecai, Horace Abbott, James W. Tyson, D. D. Mallory, A. B. Morton & Sons, John E. Phillips, John S. Gilmor, J. W. Harvey, L. H. Robinson, Dr. William Stuart, Rev. C. W. Baldwin. Also, St. Agnes Hospital, Md. Agricultural College, Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Company.

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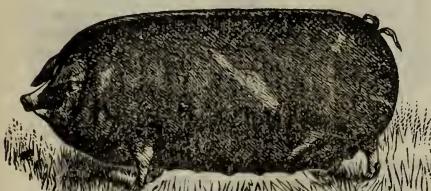
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"IDLE GIRL," age 2 years; weight as here shown, 560 pounds.

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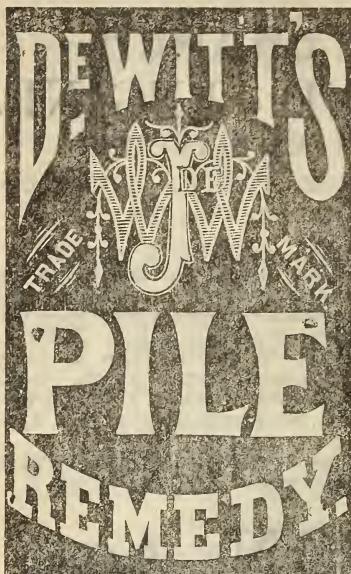
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**STANDARD SIGN WRITER**, and Letterers' Companion, a practical book for practical men. Explicit instructions and model alphabets \$2 00 booksellers and painter's supply houses, or by mail JESSE HANEY & CO., 119 Nassau St. N. Y.—Sep.

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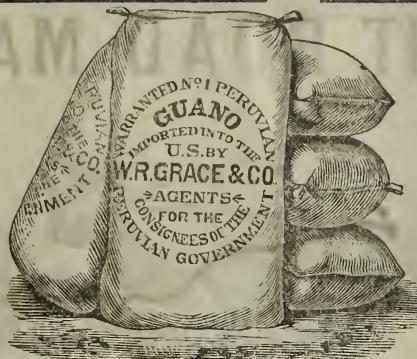
Thoroughbred stallion Florist, by imported Australian; two Black Hawk trotting and riding stallions; two imported Percherons and four of their get, out of imported mares, two year old Percheron colt; one of same age, the last colt of my Black Hawk, and when 27 years old, and he by Hill's Black Hawk in 1833; a Clydesdale and superb stallion, and will sell or farm any of them to live men on fair terms. The same of Short Horn Cattle, purely bred of all ages, and Berkshire and Chester White Hogs. Early applications are best. Send for Catalogues. S. W. FICKLIN, Near Charlottesville, Va. Mar-21

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Is sure to cure Spavins, Splints, Curb  
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DOES NOT BLISTER. Has no  
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it has cured hip-joint lameness in a  
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DRUGGISTS have it or can get it for you. DR. B. J.  
KENDALL & Co., Proprietors. Enosburgh Falls, Ver-  
mont. THOMSEN & MUTH, Agents, 18 German  
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# PERUVIAN GUANO.

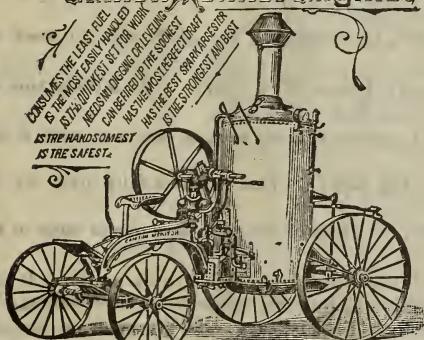


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offers it for sale, delivered from the Government Storehouses, Water's Wharf.

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CANTON, OHIO.



**CAULTMAN & Co.**  
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## MOWING MACHINE TRIAL.

AT THE

## Experimental Farm, Chester County, Pa.

May 30th, 1878.

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE:

Wheeler, No. 5, Draft 290 lbs., works well.

Walter A. Wood, Draft 290 lbs., works well.

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Buckeye, [C. Aultman & Co] Draft 200  
lbs., work better executed than any other.

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BENJAMIN SWAIN, THOS. HOOPES.

C. A. AULTMAN & CO

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Ap-3t.

# PENNOCK'S PATENT ROAD MACHINE.



## WHAT OWNERS OF MACHINES SAY:

"I can make one mile of road per day at an average cost of \$10. Would pay \$1,000 rather than be without it."

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W. R. PACKARD.

From *Local News*, West Chester, Pa., June 17th, 1879: "We are satisfied that *fifty men* could not have done in *one day* what this machine accomplished in *two hours*."

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We warrant this Machine to keep the Roads *twice as good* for *half* the present cost

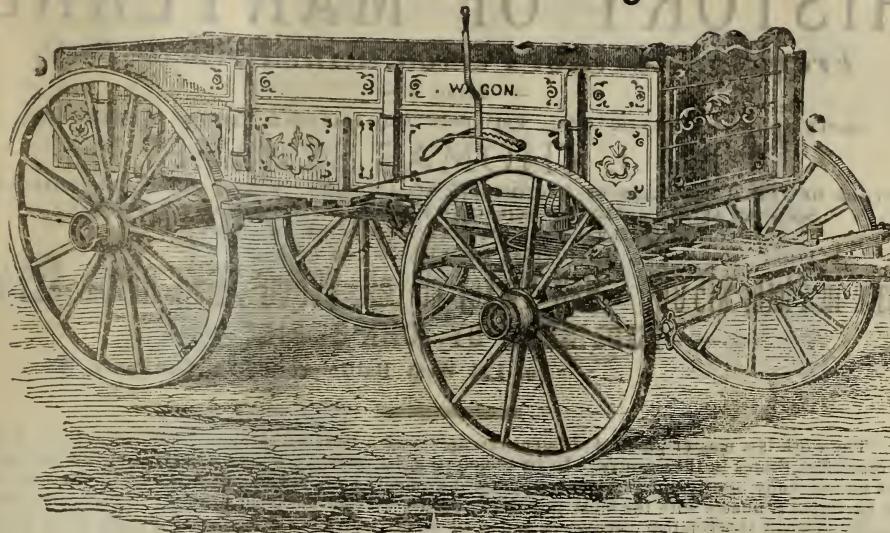
MACHINES SENT ON TRIAL. Write for particulars.

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Apr-3t

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## THIMBLE SKEIN.

*Capacity.*

3 inch Thimble Skein, Light 2 Horse.....	\$ 90 00	— 2500 lbs.
3½ " " Medium 2 Horse.....	95 00	— 3000 lbs.
3½ " " Heavy 2 Horse.....	100 00	— 4000 lbs.
3½ " " 3 or 4 Horse.....	105 00	— 5000 lbs.
4 " " for 4 Horses, with stiff tongue, pole and stretcher chains.....	115 00	— 6000 lbs.

The above are complete with whiffletrees, neck yoke, bed and top box, stay chains, &c.

## IRON AXLE WAGONS.

1½ inch Iron Axle, Light 2 Horse.....	\$100 00	— 2300 lbs.
1½ " " Medium 2 Horse.....	105 00	— 2800 lbs.
1½ " " Heavy 2 Horse.....	110 00	— 3500 lbs.
2 " " for 4 Horses, with stiff tongue, pole and stretcher chains.....	120 00	— 5000 lbs.
2½ " " 4 " " " " 150 00	—	7000 lbs.

The above are complete, with whiffletrees, neck yoke, bed and top box, stay chains, &c.  
*Brakes and Seats* furnished for either the Thimble Skein or Iron Axle Wagons at the following additional cost, viz:

Spring Seat, (with 2 steel springs) \$6. Patent Brakes, \$4. Lock Chain, \$1.

## DEMOCRAT (or Country Driving) WAGONS.

No. 2, with half springs, 1 spring seat, shafts.....	\$100 00
No. 3, 3 full springs, 2 seats, shafts and pole.....	135 00
Jersey Buggy " " " " 160 00	

## EVERY WAGON WARRANTED.

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It is the only work yet published which gives the true position of the North and South upon the slavery question, and shows minutely the true causes of sectional discontent. It gives the reader a correct idea of the War for the Union, of military rule and the radical administration in Maryland. It is acknowledged to be the best book written on the subject, and is just the book that every person should have in order to become acquainted with the latest results of historical investigation. It abounds with copious explanatory, biographical and suggestive notes. It is published in three super-royal octavo volumes, printed on superior paper, and illustrated with over two hundred engravings of portraits of distinguished men, views, maps, buildings, forts, &c., &c., accompanied with a new and complete map of the State, prepared expressly for the work, showing the present as well as the original boundary of Maryland.

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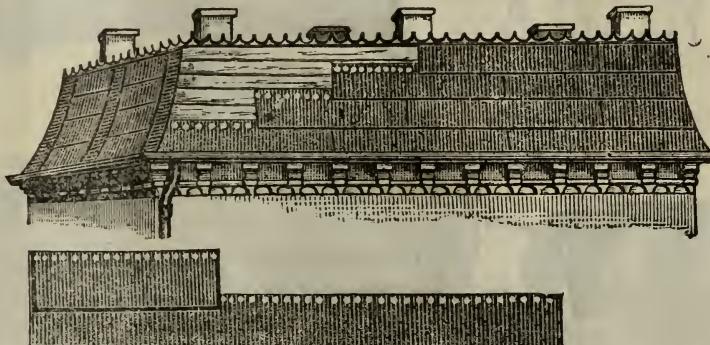
## THE GRANITE ROOFING COMPANY of BALTIMORE

Office, and Factory, 14 S. Front St.

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FAVORABLE TERMS TO AGENTS, &amp;c.

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Material Cement, and Diploma for Tank.

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The Granite Roofing Company also manufactures Roofing Paint for Metallic or Shingles Roofs, Damp Walls and Iron Work generally. It keeps constantly on hand all kinds of Felt and Cements.

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The Granite Roofing Company will make special terms with agents or parties in the roofing business.

Repairing old roofs of every description promptly attended to and charge moderate. Country Orders Solicited.

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Mr. Morgan has also Patented an Acid Tank, a model of which he has on exhibition, which will contain for any length of time the strongest acids without leaking. They can be made of wood, brick or iron, of any size or capacity, and are merely lined with this roofing material, and are guaranteed to contain the strongest acids known, and at the same time the cost is more reasonable than any other tank made for the same purpose. Mr. Morgan has the strongest endorsement for Dr. Lieby, of the Patapsco Guano Company's Works, as well as from other prominent men. The following certificates speak for itself:

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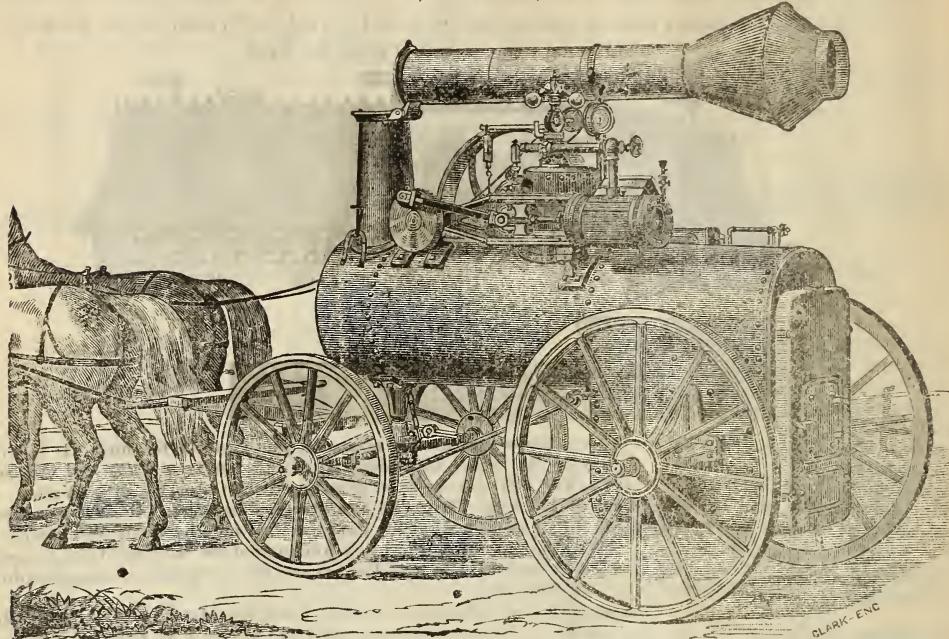
As manufacturers, handling large quantities of Muriatic Acid, frequently experiencing difficulties, in providing tanks, which will not be affected by Muriatic Acid, I consider this invention of great value. I will add, that there has been built at the Baltimore Chrome Works, a large tank, holding over 8,000 gallons, which has been used for storage of Muriatic Acid for the last four months, and has given entire satisfaction.

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Theapest and best for all purposes—simple, strong, and durable. Also Horse Pow-

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Vertical Engines, with wheels, very convenient, economical and complete in every detail.

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"MARYLAND FARMER"  
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BALTIMORE, MD.

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We are in regular correspondence with all the largest manufacturers in the country, who allow us commissions on all purchases made from them, and therefore, we make no charge to parties ordering from us. The advantages of purchasing through our Agency, will be the saving of Agents commission, and all expenses of Warehousing, Storage, &c., &c.

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In ordering goods from us, please write distinctly the shipping address and Post Office, that remittances may be promptly acknowledged, and goods shipped properly.

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Maryland Farmer Purchasing Agency,  
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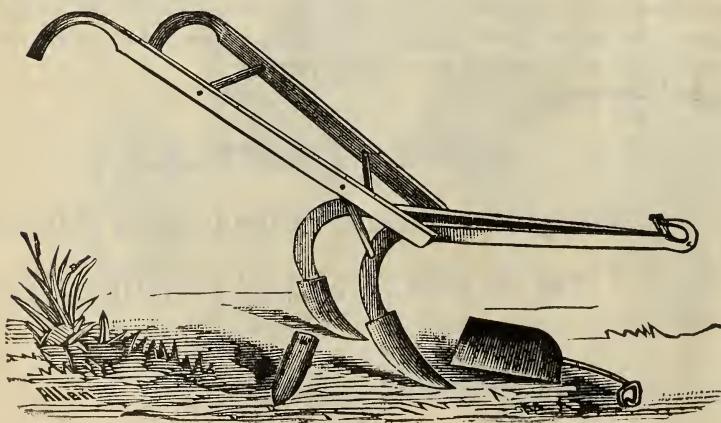
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FOR THE

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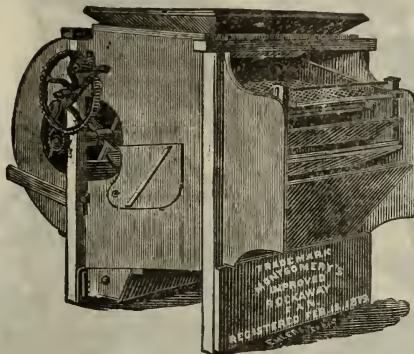
The following is a list of Valuable Books, which will be supplied from the Office of the MARYLAND FARMER. Any one or more of these books will be sent *post-paid* to any of our readers on receipt of the regular price, which is named against each book.

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Bell's Carpentry Made Easy*	5 00	Henderson's Gardening for Profit	I 50
Boussingault's Rural Economy	I 60	Herbert's Hint to House-Keepers	I 75
Brackett's Farm Talk* paper, 50 cts.; cloth	75	Jennings' on Cattle and their Diseases	I 75
Buel's Cider-Maker's Manual	I 50	Jennings' Horse Training Made Easy	I 25
Buist's Family Kitchen Gardener	I 00	Jennings' on Sheep, Swine and Poultry	I 75
Burnham's New Poultry Book	2 00	Jersey, Alderney and Guernsey Cow	I 50
Burges' American Kennel & Sporting Field	4 00	Johnson's How Crops Grow	2 00
Breck's New Book of Flowers	I 75	Johnston's Agricultural Chemistry	I 75
Brill's Farm-Gardening and Seed-Growing	I 00	King's Beekeepers' Text Book paper	40
Broom-Corn and Brooms paper, 50 cts.; cloth	75	Klippart's Wheat Plant	I 75
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Buchanan's Culture Grape & Wine Making	75	Mohr on the Grape-Vine	I 00
Burns' Architectural Drawing Book	I 00	Nichol's Chemistry of the Farm and Sea	I 25
Burns' Illustrated Drawing Book	I 00	Onions—How to Raise them Profitably	20
Caldwell's Agricultural Chemical Analysis	2 00	Pardee on Strawberry Culture	75
Cleveland's Landscape Architecture	I 50	Pedder's Land Measurer	60
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FOR 1880.



We call the attention of the trade to these justly celebrated FANS for the coming season. Farmers of Maryland, Virginia and Delaware will appreciate the Montgomery Fan this year more than ever before, after their experience last year with the inferior Western Fans, which were sold in these markets, most of which are already shaking to pieces. The Montgomery Improved Rockaway Wheat Fan will clean wheat so much better than any other Fan in the country, that farmers can realize from 2 to 5 cents per bushel more for wheat Cleaned with this Fan. It has received 16 Gold and Silver Medals, and 222 Premiums. Merchants should not neglect to order early to secure these celebrated Fans.

Address all orders and inquiries to

**E. WHITMAN, SONS & CO.**

April 10th 1880.

BALTIMORE, MD.

BALTIMORE, MD, APRIL 10th, 1880

The Messrs. E. Whitman, Sons & Co., are the only persons who have the right to manufacture and sell "The Montgomery Improved Rockaway Wheat Fan," with all its patents and improvements, and I most cheerfully invite and recommend all my friends and customers to send their orders direct to this house, where I am now employed and superintend the manufacture of these justly celebrated Fans.

JOS. MONTGOMERY.

# The Hughes Cultivator and Pulverizer.



**A Cultivator equalled by no other. A complete success both as a Pulverizing Harrow and Cultivator. The cheapest and best farm implement ever offered to the farmer. It costs less than a wheel cultivator, does more and better work and is more easily handled. It costs no more than an ordinary harrow and does more than double the work with the same team. It does not simply scratch the surface like a harrow, but cuts from two to four inches deep and lifts the entire surface like a subsoiler and lets it fall back perfectly pulverized, stirring up and killing all small weeds.**

The blades slant back and can be set at any angle; this entirely prevents any clogging, even in wet, trashy land. The curved end of the blade passes under and lifts the soil, and leaves it loose and level. The blades are about two inches wide, and each lifts and turns a furrow from three to four inches wide. Each blade is independent and hangs on a swivel like a CASTOR ROLLING COULTER, and is also self-adjusting, relieving itself from roots and stones, should there be any.

With it you can straddle the rows until corn is three (3) feet high, after which run between the rows with one horse, to lay your corn bye.

For descriptive circulars and price-list, address

THE HUGHES CULTIVATOR COMPANY,  
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## Sale of Valuable Hereford Cattle.

In consideration of the numerous applications for Herefords, I have determined to offer at Auction on Thursday, 10th day of June next, at Hayfields, near Cockeysville, Baltimore County, Maryland, twelve pure bred Hereford Cows, Heifers, and Heifer Calves, and four Bulls, with the exception of Illinois, bred by Mr. T. L. Miller, and Imported Giantess, the whole lot were bred by myself. Catalogues can be had upon application to the Auctioneer, or at 24 Second Street, Baltimore, or through the mail at Cockeysville.

Terms Cash. Sale will commence promptly at 1 o'clock P. M. JOHN MERRYMA .  
WILLIAM SEEMULLER, Auctioneer, No. 14 S. Charles St., Baltimore. may 2<sup>nd</sup>

# Kendall's Spavin Cure.



# Kendall's Spavin Cure.

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL REMEDY ever discovered, as it is certain in its effects and does not blister. READ PROOF BELOW.

FROM  
**Rev. P. N. Granger,**  
Presiding Elder of the St. Albans District.

St. Albans, Vt., January 20th, 1880.

Dr. B. J. Kendall & Co., Gents:—In reply to your letter I will say that my experience with Kendall's Spavin Cure has been very satisfactory indeed. Three or four years ago I procured a bottle of your agent, and with it cured a horse of lameness caused by a spavin. Last season my horse became very lame, and I turned him out for a few weeks, when he became better, but when I put him on the road, he grew worse, when I discovered that a ring-bone was forming. I procured a bottle of Kendall's Spavin Cure, and with less than a bottle cured him so that he is not lame, neither can the bunch be found. Respectfully yours, P.N.GRANGER.

## Perseverance will tell!

Sloughton, —, March 16th, 1880.

B. J. Kendall & Co., Gents:—In justice to you and myself, I think I ought to let you know that I have removed two BONE SPAVINS with Kendall's Spavin Cure, one very large one; do not know how long the spavins had been there. I have owned the horse eight months. It took me four months to get the large one off and two for the small one. I have used 10 bottles. The horse is entirely well, not at all stiff, and no bunch to be seen or felt. This is a wonderful medicine. It is a new thing here, but if it does for all what it has done for me, its sale will be very great. Respectfully yours,

CHAS. E. PARKER.

## KENDALL'S SPAVIN CURE ON HUMAN FLESH.

BAKERSFIELD, VT., Dec. 23, 1879.

B. J. KENDALL & Co.: Gents.—I wish to add my testimony in favor of your invaluable liniment, "Kendall's Spavin Cure." In the spring of 1862 I slipped on the ice and sprained my right limb at the knee joint. I was very lame, and, at times, suffered the most excruciating pain. I wore a bandage on it for over a year, and tried most everything in my reach, but could find nothing that would give me permanent relief. When I overworked, it would pain me very much. In April, 1878, I began to think I should be a cripple for life, but, having some of "Kendall's Spavin Cure," thought I would try it. I used one-third of a bottle, and experienced relief at once. The pain left me and has not troubled me since. I feel very grateful to you, and would recommend "Kendall's Spavin Cure" to all who suffer with sprains or rheumatism.

Yours truly,

MRS. J. BOUTELL.

Is sure in its effects, mild in its acts, as it does not blister, and yet it is penetrating and powerful to reach any deep seated pain or to remove any bony growth or any other enlargement, it used for several days, such as spavins, sprints, curbs, callous, sprains, swellings, any lameness and all enlargements of the joints or limbs, or rheumatism in man and for any purpose for which a liniment is used for man or beast. It is now known to be the best liniment for man ever used, acting mild and yet certain in its effects. It is used full strength with perfect safety at all seasons of the year.

Send address for Illustrated Circular, which we think gives positive proof of its virtues. No remedy has ever met with such unqualified success, to our knowledge, for beast as well as man. Price \$1 per bottle, or six bottles for \$5. All Druggists have it or can get it for you, or it will be sent to any address on receipt of price by the proprietors.

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Agent for WESTERN SHORE of MARYLAND,  
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THE WHOLE YEAR ROUND  
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Twenty-five Southdown Buck Lambs for sale. They are all from imported stock of superior quality, and will be sold for \$10 each, not to leave the State.

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1858



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Forming the most concentrated, universal and durable fertilizer ever offered to the farmer—combining all the stimulating qualities of Peruvian Guano, and the ever durable fertilizing properties of Bones. In fine dry powder, prepared expressly for drilling.

After twenty-two Years' experience by the Planters of Maryland and Virginia in the use of "EXCELSIOR," it is their unanimous opinion that an application of 100 pounds of "EXCELSIOR" is equal to from 200 to 300 pounds of any other fertilizer or guano, and, therefore, full 100 per cent cheaper.

Farmers should see that every bag is headed with the Analysis, and our name, in red letters, which we hope will prove sufficient protection against counterfeit articles. All further abuse of our name being disclaimed for the future. A large supply of Peruvian Guano for sale.

Feb-1

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## BONE SUPER PHOSPHATE,



Composed of the most concentrated materials, it is richer in Ammonia and Soluble Phosphates than any other Fertilizer sold, except our "Excelsior," and is made with the same care and supervision; uniform quality guaranteed; in excellent order for drilling.

Farmers should see that every Bag is branded with the analysis and our name in red letters, which we hope will prove sufficient protection against counterfeit articles. ALL FURTHER ABUSE OF OUR NAME BEING DISCLAIMED FOR THE FUTURE.

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STOLEN.****NO QUESTIONS ASKED.** Scarcely a day passes but what the daily papers contain several advertisements with above heading. Over 100 strangers are robbed and swindled every day. SO DONT COME TO NEW YORK UNTIL YOU HAVE READ**"HOW COUNTRY PEOPLE ARE SWINDLED IN NEW YORK"**

Price only 25 cents, post paid, or five copies to one address for \$1. Frauds and swindlers of all kinds are exposed. Faro banks, lotteries, policy shops, confidence men, blackmailers, pickpockets, panel houses, Wall street sharks, and a thousand and one swindles you never heard of are "shown up." Read following extract of a letter just received from a farmer in New York State, "I had just been paid for my season's butter when I was induced to invest \$1,000 in a swindle which you expose in your book, and had I only read it 6 months ago I would now be \$1,000 better off." REMEMBER the price is very low, only 25 cents, and it may save you \$2,500. Postage stamps taken. Agents wanted in every town. It is selling like hot cakes. Canvassers are coining money. Big discount. Don't delay, but send at once. Address,

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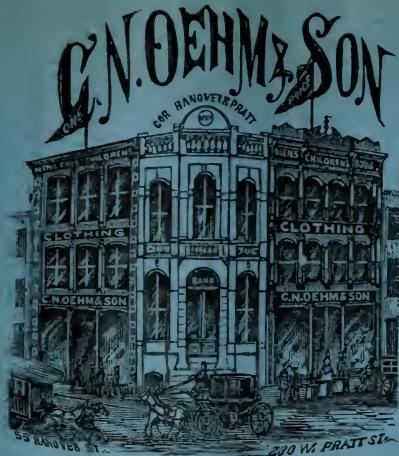
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# INDEX TO ADVERTISEMENTS.

Page	Page		
American Drier Co .....	7	Lamphear, W K .....	21
Aultman, C. A. & Co .....	31	Lawrence & Co .....	29
Bagley, E A .....	25	Leffel, James & Co .....	43
Baker, R. J. & Co .....	12	London Purple .....	12
Baltimore Coal Tar and Manufacturing Co	5	Ledoux & Co, A. R. ....	44
Baltimore and Ohio R R .....	7	Legg, Ed. C. ....	1
Bartón & Co., Henry S. ....	46	Munson & Co .....	6
Bowie, W W W .....	7, 32	Maltby House .....	12
Buxton, John H .....	29	Merryman, John .....	42
Bolton & Co., Hugh .....	44	Mills, E Jr .....	30
Brecht, Louis .....	23	Mitkiewicz, Cooke & Co .....	8
Ballard, Branch & Co .....	30	Mott, A G .....	44
Burpee, W Atlee & Co .....	10	Morris, Francis .....	44
Carrollton .....	10	Murphy, John & Co .....	11
Chapin, Geo H .....	28	N Y Furnishing Co .....	21
Colvin, Mrs. Richard .....	20	Newman, T G & Son .....	7
Clark, W Wirt .....	5	Oehm, Chas. N. & Son .....	inside cover
Clinton Bros .....	7, 24	Pennock & Sons .....	32
Davidson, Wm & Co .....	inside cover	Pike, D A .....	30
Druid Hill Park .....	3	Parry, Wm .....	24
Dufur & Co .....	3	Piet. J. B. ....	34
Dederick, P K .....	28	Biggs, A. ....	29
Eggleston Truss Co .....	3	Rasin, R W L & Co .....	outside cover
Ewalt, Henry .....	23	Remington Agl Works .....	16
Farquhar, A B .....	36	Russell, J B .....	25
Ficklin, S W .....	30	Sattler & Co .....	1
Fou, David E .....	20	Saul, John .....	26
Frizzell, A W .....	3	Savannah Line .....	15
Fulf rd, A M .....	15	Shaw & Co .....	38
Fitzgerald, N. W .....	44	Sherman & Co .....	24
Garland & Smith .....	80	Slifer, Merryman & Co .....	17
Gaddess Bros .....	6	Slingluff & Co .....	47
Gill, Drs S H & E A .....	26	Sloan, Geo F & Bro .....	21
Good Books .....	40	Smalley A .....	26
Haines, R. H .....	28	Snow, C. A. & Co .....	3
Harder, Minard .....	22	Stieff, C M .....	18
Hagerstown Agricultural Mfg. Co .....	20	Stinson, & Co .....	24
Harrison, Frank & Co .....	15, 39	States Piano Company .....	28
Halliday, Robt J .....	25	Stonebraker, H .....	inside cover.
Hallock, E D .....	24	Scherer, John & Son .....	12
Harrison, E M .....	20	Taylor, R Q. & Co .....	25
Haskell, J H & Co .....	21	The Bay Line .....	15
Hirshberg, Hollander & Co .....	46	The Eastern Manufacturing Co .....	44
Holloway, J Q A .....	2, 31	The Farmer's Friend & Guide .....	15
Horner, Joshua .....	8	The Hughes Cultivator Co .....	42
Index .....	48	The Granite Roofing Co .....	35
Jacobs, J. M .....	44	Torsch, Chas H & Co .....	27
Jennings, R S .....	19	The Brown Chemical Co .....	23 44
Johnson, E W & Co .....	6	The Howe Machine Co .....	39
Kendall, B J .....	30, 43	True & Co .....	8
Klein, Jacob .....	46	Turner, J J & Co .....	45
		Vermont Farm Machine Co .....	24
		Wagner, J & B L .....	7
		Waltz, Jacob .....	30
		Western Maryland Railroad .....	15
		Whitman, E—Purchasing Agency .....	37
		Whitman, E B .....	9, 14
		Whitman, E Sons & Co, 3, 33, 38, 41, 42, 45, 46	
		Wilbor, A. B. ....	20
		Winger, E B .....	30
		Watson, B M .....	26
		York River Line .....	15
		Zimmerman Fruit Drier Co .....	20



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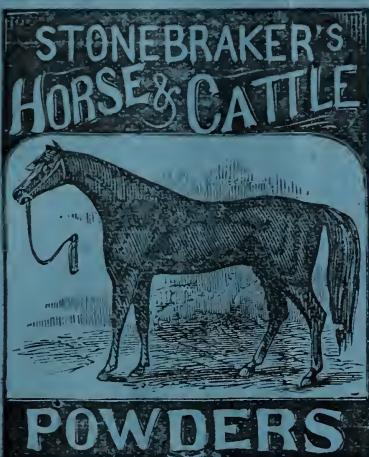
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